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THE
HISTORY
OF A
FAIR GREEK,

Who was taken out of a Seraglio at
CONSTANTINOPLE.

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Who was taken out of a Seraglio at

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And brought to Paris by a

LATE EMBASSADOR

AT THE

OTTOMAN PORT:

Interpersed with the surprising Adventures of
several other Slaves.

By Abbot PROVOST,
Almoner to His Serene Highness the Prince of Conti.

VOL. II.

LONDON:

Printed for J. ROBERTS, near the
Oxford Arms, in Warwick-Lane.

M DCC XLI.

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A Poet to His Serene Highness the Prince of Conti.

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M D C C X L I.



THE FAIR GREEK.

AS it was the most beautiful season of the year, and and as my Garden was an assemblage of all rural pleasures, I proposed taking the air in it after supper with Theofa. We took some turns in the most agreeable walks. It was not so dark but that I sometimes fancied I saw a man in several corners near us, but supposed it was my shadow or one of my Domestics. In another part I heard the rustling of leaves, but suspecting nothing, imagined it was the wind.

The air was suddenly chill'd, and the noise which I had heard seeming to forebode a storm, I desired Theofa to hasten towards a summer-house for shelter. Bema and another female Slave follow'd us. We sat down for a few moments, and I thought I heard some body walk softly at a little distance from the arbor. I call'd Bema, and asked her a trifling question, only to know how far she was from me. She was not on that side where I had heard the tread of some person's feet; and beginning to suspect that we were overheard, and not being willing to alarm Theofa, I made a pretence to get up, to go and see who was capable of being so indiscreet. I did not yet suspect that it cou'd be any other than one of my Domestics. But perceiving no body, I went back very calmly to Theofa.

The

The night began to be far advanced, and we returned to her apartment without meeting with any other adventure.

But as I cou'd not get it out of my head that I had heard some body near us, and as it seem'd to me of consequence to punish this boldness in my Domesticks, I determin'd, when I left Theofa, to wait some time at the Garden door, which was not far from her apartment, in order to surprise, as he came in, the person who had been so curious as to watch us. I had not waited there long before I perceived a man coming towards me, but he saw me also; and tho' it was so dark that he cou'd not possibly know me, yet he returned as fast as he cou'd to the grove from whence he came. My impatience made me pursue and call after him that he

might know who I was by my voice. I commanded him to stop, but he did not regard me. My resentment was so great that I resolved to take another method to clear up this affair immediately. I went in again, and order'd all the Domestics which I had at Oru to be call'd together. Their number was not large: I had but seven, who all appeared in a minute. I concealed the motives of my behaviour, and the Seliſtar coming into my thoughts, with all the suspicions which cou'd accompany such an idea, I was exasperated at a piece of treachery of which I thought I cou'd no longer doubt. It seem'd plain to me that he lodged at some house in the neighbourhood, from whence he hoped that he might easily in the night get admittance into mine. But was this with the knowledge and consent of

Theofa?

The Fair Greek.

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Theofa? This doubt which immediately arose in my mind, overwhelmed me with anguish. I shou'd have ordered all my Servants to have searched the Garden, had I not been withheld by another thought which made me take a quite different resolution. It seem'd to me of much more importance to dive into the designs of the Seliſtar, than to seize his person; and determining to undertake the trouble of doing this myself, I sent away all my Servants without excepting even my Valet de Chambre, and returned to my post at the Garden door, where I hid myself more carefully than I had the first time. I hoped soon to see the Seliſtar return, but had the mortification to wait for him a long while in vain.

He came privately into the house while I was getting my Servants to-

gether. Bema, who had lead him into the Garden, guess'd at my suspicions, and having made a pretence to leave her Mistress, had safely conducted him back to his quarters. My uneasiness all the next day was too great to be concealed. I did not see even Theofa, and look'd upon the fears which she discover'd in the evening with regard to my health only as artifice and perfidy, which I was already thinking how to revenge. As an addition to my trouble I received advice at night that the life of Bassa Cheriber was in the utmost danger, and that his friends, who knew the step which I had already taken in his favour, conjured me to see the Grand Visir again, and to renew my solicitations. What an accident at a time when I resolv'd to resume my post at my Garden door, and was already
ready

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ready viewing in my mind the confusion with which I shou'd overwhelm the Selićtar ! But there was no room to hesitate between duty and love. The only means to reconcile them was to return to Constantinople as fast as possible, that I might be back before the night was too far advanced. But I cou'd not, tho' I made the utmost dispatch, return before midnight ; and how cou'd I be sure that the Selićtar and Theofa wou'd not in the mean time make an ill use of my absence ?

I began by degrees to reproach myself with having rejected Bema's advice ; and in my present necessity saw no remedy but having recourse to it, at least upon this occasion. And having sent for her to me, Bema, said I, affairs of the utmost consequence call me to Constantinople.

I dare not trust Theofa to herself, and am convinced of the necessity of setting over her so faithful a Governess as you. Assume at least the authority, if not the title, 'till my return. To you I commit the care of her health and conduct. Never was man so foolishly perfidious. The wretched Bema however afterwards confessed to me, at a time when circumstances forced her to be sincere, that if I had not limited her commission, and had given her hopes of always retaining the same ascendant in my house instead of letting her see it was to end at my return, that she shou'd have broke off all engagements with the Seliſtar, and been faithful in her services to me.

I went away tolerably well satisfied; but my journey was useless to my two friends. As soon as I came

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to my house I heard that the Grand Visir had twice sent one of his principal Officers thither, who seem'd to be pretty much out of humour at not meeting with me; and some whispers which began to be spread abroad, were I thought ill omens for the two Bassas. I went therefore immediately to the Grand Visir's, and pretending to be very impatient to know what he wanted with me, earnestly desired that he would grant me a moment's audience, even in the Seraglio where I was told he was. He did not make me wait long; but shorten'd my visit by the care he took to prevent my complaints. I was unwilling, said he, that you shou'd have any reason to accuse me of not showing a great regard to your recommendation; and had order'd my Officer, if he had found you at home, to tell
you

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you that the two Bassas were both guilty, and that the Grand Seignior cou'd not avoid exercising his justice upon them.

Whatever desire I might have to justify them, so formal a declaration left me no room to make any reply. But confessing that treason deserved no mercy, I asked the Grand Visir if the crimes of Cheriber and Azet were a mystery which I ought not to pry into. He told me that their guilt and punishment wou'd be made public the next day, and that it wou'd be but a small favour to inform me of them a few hours sooner. Aurisan Muley, Aga of the Janissaries, having been long exasperated against the Court for attempting to lessen his authority, proposed to seat on the Throne Prince Achmet, the Sultan's second brother, whom he had educated in his infancy,
and

and who had some months since been closely imprison'd for some severe jests which he had made on his brother. It was necessary to enter into a correspondence with this Prince, and to be assured of his dispositions. The Aga had done this with great dexterity, but the springs by which he succeeded were not known, and this was the only difficulty which the Minister had to clear up. Tortures had wrested from the Aga a confession of his guilt, but he had preserved an inviolable secrecy with regard to his confederates, and the Visir himself own'd to me that he cou'd not help admiring him. But his strict friendship with Cheriber and Dely Azet, who had been successively the two last Bassas of Egypt, made the Divan resolve to apprehend them. They were both immensely rich, and
their

their influence was still so powerful in Egypt, that it was not doubted but that they were the two principal pillars of the Aga's enterprize. In fact, the fear of cruel tortures which they cou'd not bear at their age, had forced them to confess that they were guilty, and that the scheme which the Conspirators had formed was to pass into Egypt with Achmet, if they shou'd not succeed in their endeavours to establish him on the Throne immediately. This confession did not hinder them from suffering various tortures, to make them declare the names of their accomplices, and particularly whether the Bostangi Bachi and the Selihtar were guilty. But whether they did not really know, or whether they resolved to show the same constancy as the Aga, they both persisted to death
in

in not alledging any thing against them. Four hours since, said the Grand Visir, you wou'd have found them stretched on the rack in my anti-chamber; for there they underwent the last examination, and the Grand Seignior order'd their execution as soon as it was over.

Tho' I was greatly terrified at so recent a catastrophe, yet my friendship for the Selihtar did not suffer me to forget to ask the Minister if he was clear enough to show himself with safety. Why observe me, said he, I love the Selihtar, and am far from chagrining him for nothing; but as his flight has raised unlucky prejudices against him in the Council, I wish that he would not appear without having first spread some report to clear up the mystery of his absence. And since he has retired to you, keep him,

him, added he, 'till I send you word. I look'd upon the Visir's confidence as a new favour, and thank'd him for it; but not knowing for certain that the Selihtar was at my house, I thought myself obliged not to suffer him to think he was. I was just come from Oru, where I had been last night and all that day, and protested so solemnly that I had not seen the Selihtar there, that the Visir chose rather to think his Spies had deceived him than to question my sincerity.

My journey being very much shorten'd by so unhappy an event, I pleased myself with the thoughts of returning to Oru time enough to surprise the Selihtar in my Garden, and already began to consider by what means I might insure my success. But when I came back to my house at Constantinople, I found my Valet
de

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de Chambre waiting for me with the utmost impatience. He immediately desired to speak with me in private. I bring you news, said he, which will very much trouble and surprise you. Synesius is dying of a wound which he received from the Seliſtar, Theofa is reduced to the ſame extremity by her fears, and Bema, whom I ſuppoſe to be the wicked author of all theſe diſorders, is ſecured by way of precaution 'till your return. Your preſence, continued he, is neceſſary at Ora, were it only to fruſtrate the Seliſtar's deſign, who can't be driven from the houſe, and who may eaſily get ſtrength enough to enter it by force. The concern which he ſhow'd for his violence ſeem'd to me very ſuſpicious. As he was alone, I ſhou'd have cauſed him to be apprehended, had I not been afraid of offending

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offending you. However, added my Valet, I have taken so much care to put the rest of your Domestics in a posture of defence, that you may be very easy with regard to any attempts 'till your arrival.

So unexpected an accident not permitting me to be so, I set out immediately, taking four Servants well armed along with me by way of precaution. The consternation in which I found those of Oru, was a proof that my Valet had not aggravated matters. I found them, armed with a dozen fowling pieces, keeping a strict guard at my gate; and asked them how Theofa and Synesius did, whose adventure I cou'd not yet comprehend. They were ignorant as well as I of his not having quitted the house; and not knowing that the Seliſtar was there, it was merry enough to see
gaibaeſto them

them take so much pains to keep him out of my house before he had left it. Having carefully examined them concerning this affair, I found that the cries of Synesius had drawn them to Theofa's apartment, where they found him engaged with the Seliſtar, and almost disabled by a wound which endanger'd his life. Bema sided with the Seliſtar, and urged him to kill Synesius, but they were soon parted. The Seliſtar stole away, Synesius was cover'd with blood, and Theofa trembling and almost dead with fear, conjured my Domestics to fly and tell me what had happen'd.

Her having thought of me affected me so much that I went immediately to her apartment, and was more confirmed by the joy she discover'd at seeing me. I went to her bed-side.

She

She seized my hand, and grasped it very hard. Heavens! said she, what horrors have I been a witness of during your absence! You wou'd have found me dead of my fears, had you tarried longer. The manner and accent in which she utter'd these words was so artless and affecting, that my suspicions not only vanished, but I was tempted, notwithstanding the circumstances in which I found her, to relapse into all my former fondness. I endeavour'd however to confine my joy in my heart, and contenting myself with kissing her hands, tell me then, Theofa said I, with a transport which wou'd now and then show itself in my words, tell me what I must think of the horrors of which you complain. Can you complain of what happen'd in your chamber? What did the Seliotar do there; what.

what Synefius? None of my Servants know any thing of the matter. Will you give me a faithful account?

Yes, this is one of the things, said she, which affrighted me most: I foresaw as all wou'd appear a mystery, that you wou'd not exempt me from your suspicions; but I call Heaven to witness that I see no farther into this affair than you. As soon as you was gone, continued she, and I thought of nothing but retiring, Bema came and told me several stories to which I gave but very little heed. She ridiculed my taste for reading and the other exercises in which I spend my time; and talk'd of amours, and of the joys which persons of my age find in the pleasures of love. An hundred amorous tales which she told me, were meant, I perceived, as so many reproaches

proaches for my not following such agreeable examples. She founded my inclinations by several questions ; and this officiousness, which I had never observed in her before, beginning to be troublesome, I suffer'd the more from the necessity I was under of hearing her, when she let me understand that you had given her authority over me, and that she shou'd use it only to make me happy. She had hardly seen me to bed and retired, but I heard some body open my chamber door, and presently perceived that it was Synesius. I was more surpris'd than frighten'd at his appearance ; but remembring what you had told me of him, I shou'd have discover'd my uneasiness, had I not supposed that you might have pardon'd him upon your arrival at Constantinople, and have sent him hither with

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with some commands for me. I suffer'd him to come nearer, and when he began a speech which contain'd nothing but complaints of his wretchedness, I interrupted him as soon as I perceived that he did not come from you. Amidst a thousand expressions of grief he fell on his knees by my bed-side in a violent agitation. At the same instant Bema introduced the Seliotar: don't ask me what this increase of my confusion hinder'd me from observing distinctly. I heard Bema shriek, reproach Synesius with his temerity, and urge the Seliotar to punish him for it. They were both armed. Synesius put himself in a posture of defence; but being wounded by the Seliotar, he closed in with him, and I saw their poniards glitter in the air as they were struggling together. The noise of their
strife,

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strife, rather than my shrieks, for my terror had made them too weak to be heard, drew your Domestics hither; and all that I remember of what happen'd afterwards, is that they went at my earnest desire to hasten your return.

Her innocence was so evident in this account, that I was sorry for my suspicions, and did all I cou'd to disperse the remains of terror which still appeared in her countenance. And during the warmth of my vows of fondness and love, with which I thought she was greatly moved and soften'd, I might perhaps insensibly have obtain'd the favour which I had sworn not to ask, if the strength of my resolutions had not supported me against the rebellion of my senses. But my scheme was settled; and I think in the opinion which I then had

had of her, that I shou'd have been really sorry to have found her guilty of a weakness which would have lessen'd my esteem.

Not losing any thing however which sooth'd my passion, I drew satisfaction enough from this accident to enable me to look upon the doubts which I had yet to clear up, as events which began to affect me less, and which I shou'd examine with great calmness and serenity. Do you remember, said I to Theofa, in order to let her know part of my expectations, that you have now suffer'd me to see what I flatter myself with more plainly discovering one day or other. She seem'd doubtful of my meaning. I have sufficiently explain'd myself, replied I; and was persuaded, when I left her, that she only affected not to understand me. I immediately

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sent for Bema. This crafty Slave hoping for some time to deceive me, endeavour'd to persuade me that the Seliſtar came by chance to my house in the evening, that she happen'd to see him the moment she found that Synefius was in Theofa's apartment, and that her zeal for the honour of my family induced her to intreat him to punish the insult which was done me by this rash young man. The Seliſtar having disappeared before she was taken into custody, she supposed that he was gone quite away, or had at least got safe back to his asylum; and flatter'd herself that she shou'd in either case easily find an opportunity to inform him of the excuse which she had invented for him. But I had not been so long in Turkey without knowing the power which a Master has over his

his Slave; and not thinking it at all probable that the Seliſtar had ſtole away privately, if he came with no ill deſign, I reſolved to make uſe of the moſt rigorous means to come at the truth. The reaſons which my Valet de Chambre had to confine Bema, ought to make at leaſt as deep an impreſſion upon me. In ſhort, I talked of putting her to the torture, and the ſternneſs of my voice and air making her believe that I was in earneſt, ſhe was ſo terrified that ſhe preſently confeſs'd the whole of her intrigue.

When I was fully convinced that the Seliſtar had not ſeen Theoſa before he found Synefius in her chamber, I thought I had more reaſon to banter him on account of his ill ſucceſs, than to be offended at his having concealed himſelf in my houſe :

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And Bema erased all traces of my resentment, by telling the reasons which had induced him to hide himself from me. But what made my friend more excuseable not being sufficient to justify her, I designed to consider of the punishment which she deserved for her treachery; and it was upon this occasion that she called her Prophet to witness, that I shou'd have had no reason to reproach her, if I had put an entire confidence in her, and not trusted her by halves. This frankness greatly abated my anger. I wanted nothing further of her only to know what was become of the Seliſtar. She said she believed that he was returned to her chamber, and that I might satisfy myself by only seeing whether the door was fast. Not doubting by this proof of his being there, the only

ly revenge I propos'd was to let him rest quietly in his quarters 'till hunger shou'd drive him out, and to post my Valet de Chambre at the door to receive him as soon as he shou'd appear. Bema, whom I left in her prison, cou'd not prevent the satisfaction I promised myself from this scene.

She cou'd give me no light with regard to Synesius, since no body was more surpris'd than herself at finding him in Theofa's apartment. But he gave me little apprehension, and as I heard his wound was really dangerous, I order'd him to be taken care of, and defer'd seeing him 'till he shou'd grow better. Whether he left my house and then came back again, or whether he never went out of it, was owing to the infidelity of one of my Servants, and was a matter of

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little importance which I was in no great hurry to punish. And as I thought myself secure of Theofa's prudence, it was indifferent to me whether she was beloved by this young Greek or not; nay, I foresaw that it might be of some advantage to her with respect to her father. This reflection did not offer itself to my mind at first; but thinking of the affair since the last conversation which I had with Synesius about it, I concluded if the violence of his passion continued, that it wou'd give me an opportunity of putting his father to a new trial, by pretending to marry him to Theofa. If Lord Condoidi had not lost all sense of Honour and Religion as well as Nature, it wou'd I thought be impossible for him not to oppose this incestuous marriage; and in a Country where
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the authority of fathers is not very great, I cou'd oblige him to have recourse to this objection to hinder it.

Thus accidents which had greatly alarmed me, had no worse consequences than the wound of Synesius, and the chastisement of a few Domesticks. I parted with Bema some days after, with this mortifying circumstance for her that I sold her only for half what she cost me. This is a sort of punishment which is inflicted only by persons who are rich, and who have at the same time good nature enough not to use a Slave who has offended with cruelty; but however insensible these wretches may be, they are greatly affected by it, as it sinks them in their opinion even below their own miserable condition. I heard however that Bema was afterwards

wards recommended to the Seliſtar; and that he had been ſo grateful as to purchaſe her for his Seraglio.

As for him, I had not the pleaſure which I expected of ſeeing him ſurrender to hunger and thirſt. Suppoſing by the long delay of his confident that ſhe was detain'd againſt her will, and conſidering the circumſtances he ſhou'd ſoon be reduced to without her aſſiſtance, he reſolved not to wait there 'till the morning, and fancied, as he was well acquainted with my houſe, that he ſhou'd eaſily eſcape in the dark. He fell into the hands of my Valet de Chambre, who had already taken his poſt. This faithful Servant might have periſh'd by his poniard; but being himſelf ſuſpicious of it, he was cautious enough to ſpeak in a very civil manner, and to aſſure the Seliſtar that he
had

had no reason to be apprehensive of violence, and that I shou'd on the contrary load him with careffes and all kind of good offices. He suffered himself, tho' not without some signs of diffidence, to be conducted to me. I was in bed, but got up immediately ; but pretending to be greatly surpris'd : How ! the Selictar, cried I ; why, what accident --- He interrupted me with an air of confusion. Spare me the rallery, said he, which I so richly deserve. Even your reproaches will be just, if you confine them to my nocturnal visit to Theofa ; but in the use which I made of my poniard, I meant only to serve you, though the care which your Servants took to snatch out of my hands the youth whom I wounded, makes me apprehend that I was mistaken in my zeal. And as for the

liberty which I have taken of retiring to your house without your knowledge, you ought to impute it only to the perplexity of a friend who knew not what step to take, and who was willing to make your house his asylum without exposing you to the resentment of the Port. I interrupted him in my turn, to assure him that I would save him the trouble of justifying himself; and that I did not find any thing blameable in his conduct even with regard to Theofa, unless it was demeaning himself by a behaviour which was not at all suitable to his noble manner of thinking. He own'd that this reproach was just. Opportunity, said he, got the better of my virtue. All the rest of our conversation turned upon mirth and rally. I assured him that his worst punishment shou'd be to be lodged
more

more commodiously and to be better attended than in Bema's chamber, without being exposed to the danger which had induced him to conceal himself. My telling him what I had heard from the Grand Visir, did not give him more satisfaction with regard to himself than compassion for the fate of the Aga of the Janissaries and the two Bassas. He protested, however, that he shou'd pity themselves if they were guilty, and that far from entering into their conspiracy, he shou'd absolutely have broken with them, had he suspected it. He seem'd disposed to set out, immediately, and talk'd of sending for two Slaves whom he had commanded to wait for him in a neighbouring village. But I told him the precautions which the Grand Visir desired him to use before he returned to
Constan-

Constantinople. Among the many schemes which he might have embraced, he resolved by my advice to go the next day to his country house, as if he was returned from visiting the Magazines and Arsenals of the Black Sea. I did not even refuse to accompany him; and to let him know that I did not only not retain any resentment of what was past, but that I had still the same opinion of him which first induced me to court his friendship, I proposed to take Theofa along with us.

He cou'd hardly believe that I was sincere in what I offer'd; but I was so much in earnest, that having passed the rest of the night with him, I conducted him myself to Theofa's apartment to persuade her to agree to our proposition. Her last conversation had made me as it were superior

rior to all the weaknesſes of jealousy; and I was ſo well ſatiſfied that the Se-
lictar wou'd never gain her affections,
that his vainly renewing his attempts
wou'd be a ſort of triumph to me.
Beſides, whatever my ſucceſs might
be, I was unwilling to let him have
it in his power to reproach me with
preventing his. I ow'd him this
complaiſance, as I had perhaps at
firſt contributed to his paſſion by be-
ing ſo ready to approve it; and
ſhou'd Theofa according to my
wiſhes ever feel an affection for me,
I was deſirous that my friend ſhou'd
loſe all hopes of ſucceſs, before he
perceived that I was happier than
himſelf.

If Theofa ſeem'd ſurpriſed at our
ſcheme, ſhe made no objections to it
when ſhe found that I was to be with
her, and that ſhe was only to accom-
pany

pany me. I order'd her such an equipage as wou'd make her appear like a person of distinction at the Seliſtar's. He had told me that this house was the centre of his power and pleasures; that is to say, that there was not only all the ornaments which please the taste of the Turks, but a Seraglio also and a prodigious number of Slaves. I had besides heard him boast of it as the most delightful place in all the neighbourhood of Constantinople. We were eight miles from it; and not getting there 'till the evening, I was for that day deprived of a prospect, to which perhaps there is nothing comparable in any other part of the world. But the Seliſtar immediately shew'd us all the internal elegance and riches of this superb Edifice, and I was instantly obliged to own that I had never seen
any

any thing more beautiful in France or Italy. If I ever had any reason to fear that I might have cause to repent of my engaging Theofa in this journey, it was when the Seliſtar, after he had display'd and made her admire ſo much magnificence, offer'd her the abſolute dominion of the whole, with all the lavish promiſes which he had formerly made her. I cou'd hardly hide the confuſion which reddn'd on my cheeks. I look'd upon Theofa, and expected her answer with a concern which ſhe has ſince own'd that ſhe obſerved. She proteſted to the Seliſtar the ſhe was very conſcious of the worth of his offers and retain'd the moſt grateful ſenſe of them, that ſhe had a very uncommon and whimſical way of thinking, and of all things in the world had the leaſt reliſh for thoſe which uſually flatter the vanity

of

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of women. Tho' she deliver'd herself with a very chearful and good-nature air, yet she said so many just and sensible things concerning virtue and happiness that I myself greatly admired them, and wonder'd from what source she had drawn them. The conclusion which she came to was, that she shou'd devote the rest of her life to the practice of the principles for which she confessed that she was indebted to my instructions and ow'd me more than for her liberty. The confusion which I had not been able to avoid, pass'd now from my countenance to that of the Seliſtar. He complain'd bitterly of his fate; and addressing himself to me, conjured me to communicate to him some of the power which Theosa attributted to my instructions. I answer'd him with a smile, that what he desired of
me

me was inconsistent with his views, and that he himself, were I to grant his request, wou'd only confirm Theofa in her principles. My heart overflow'd with joy, and I thought my happiness better secured by this declaration than by any thing which had ever happen'd before. I stole an opportunity to compliment Theofa on the nobleness of her sentiments, and took her answer for a fresh confirmation of my hopes.

The Seliſtar, tho' he was as much dejected as I was elate and happy, continued to entertain us with the utmost politeness, and to show us all the beauties of this magnificent Edifice. He introduced us the same evening into his Seraglio, with a view perhaps of tempting Theofa to accept of the empire of so charming a place. But if she was affected with
any

any thing, it was not with its riches or wonderful elegance. The remembrance of a condition in which she had been, made so deep an impression upon her, that I observed her to fall into a profound melancholly, which did not leave her for some time. The Seliſtar gave us the liberty of going thither as often as we pleased; and Theofa spent the next day in converſing with ſuch women whoſe appearances pleaſed her moſt. Her ſtaying there ſo long was very agreeable to the Seliſtar, whiſt I perhaps was a little alarm'd at it; but not caring to follow her, I watched her coming out in order to know the reaſon of it. The ſorrowful air which ſhe brought from thence, made me ſuppreſs my reproaches, and only aſk her the occaſion of it. She propoſed taking a walk in the Garden, without

without answering my question. The silence which she continued to observe, began to surprise me. At last, fetching a deep a sigh, she said with the moral turn which she naturally gave to all her reflections, what a variety in the events of life ! What a chain of things which have no resemblance, and seem not form'd to be link'd together ! I have just made a discovery of which you see I am very full, and which has inspired me with designs which I will communicate to you ; but I must first melt you into tears by a sad relation of the story.

A sensible concern, continued she, which I cou'd not help feeling for the fate of so many wretches, and which you will think excusable after my own misfortunes, induced me to ask several of the Seliçtar's Slaves concerning

44 *The Fair Greek.*

cerning the adventures which brought them into his Seraglio. Most of them are Circassians or natives of some neighbouring countries, who have been trained up for their condition, and are insensible of the wretchedness of it. But she whom I have just left is a Stranger, whose good nature and modesty are even more striking than the charms of her person. I took her aside, and praised her youth and beauty. My commendations fill'd her eyes with grief, and nothing surpris'd me more than her answer. Alas! said she, extol not such worthless benefits, but rather if you are susceptible of pity, look upon them as the fatal boon of Heaven, which makes me every moment detest my being. I promised her more than pity, and telling her that it might probably be in my power

The Fair Greek. 45

power to administer some consolation, desired her to unfold the cause of such strange despair. She told me, after shedding some tears, that she was born in Sicily, and that her father's superstition occasion'd the loss of her liberty and honour. His mother had been extremely infamous for her debaucheries, and his ill Stars had allotted him a wife who after she had long imposed upon him by the appearances of virtue, dishonour'd herself at last by open dissoluteness. Having a daughter by her (who was this Slave of the Seliſtar) he made a vow to Heaven to train her up in the paths of virtue by a very severe education, in order to retrieve the honour of his family. He shut her up when she was very young in a Castle which he had in the Country, and committed her to the care of two
good

good Old Women, whom he commanded, when he gave them their commission, not to let his daughter know that she was distinguish'd by any natural endowments, and never to mention the beauty of women as a thing worth regarding. In this manner she lived 'till she was seventeen years old, without ever thinking or desiring to do any thing contrary to the designs of her father. She perceived, whenever she had an opportunity of appearing with her two Governesses, that the looks of those she saw were fixed upon her, and that they testified some surprise at her appearance. But having never seen a looking-glass, and the two Old Women having always carefully kept from her every thing which might have turned her reflections upon herself, she never had the least suspi-

suspicion of her beauty. In this simplicity she lived, when her Governesses having introduced one of the Hawkers who travel up and down the Country with Toys, she open'd by meer accident a little box which had a looking-glass in the lid of it. Her innocence was so great as to fancy that the representation of herself which she saw there, was a picture fixed to the box. She gazed upon it with so much pleasure that the Old Women took notice of her. Their shrieks and reproaches wou'd have erased the impression which this accident had given our young Sicilian of her charms, had not the Hawker, who guessed at the cause of their complaints, privately given her one of his glasses, and told her in a whisper the injury which was done her in not being permitted to use them. She took it rather

48 *The Fair Greek.*

ther thro' fear than a desire of having what she did not understand ; but she was hardly a moment alone before she learnt the use of it. Tho' she had not of herself been able to perceive what Nature had done for her, yet the comparison which she was now constantly making between the two Old Women and herself was sufficient to show her how greatly the difference was to her advantage. She presently found so much pleasure in viewing and admiring herself eternally, in ranging her hair and adjusting her dress with more art and elegance, that she began to think, without knowing the use of these allurements, that what gave her so much satisfaction must infallibly be pleasing to others.

The Toy-man, who was highly delighted with this accident, took a deal

deal of pleasure in telling it wherever he went. The description which he gave of the beauty of the young Sicilian, excited the curiosity and desires of a Knight of Malta, who had just taken the last oaths of his Order, with little inclination to keep them. He went into the neighbourhood of the Castle, and found an opportunity of sending the young Lady a Looking-glass, the Picture of a very handsome youth, and a passionate Love-letter, informing her of every thing which had hitherto been so cautiously concealed from her. The Picture, which was that of the Knight, had the desired effect, and the instructions of the Letter were very useful and help'd her to surmount many difficulties. The young Lady, whose Governesses had never mention'd men in her hearing but as

50 *The Fair Greek.*

the instruments which Heaven was pleased to make use of to render women fit for the propagation of the species, and who had accustom'd her beforehand to have a great veneration for the sanctity of marriage, took care not to listen to the Knight's courtship, 'till she had asked him whether he designed to be her Husband. He was very liberal of his promises when he found how useful they wou'd be, and pretending some motives of interest for keeping his engagements private, soon deceived the hopes of the father and the vigilance of the two Governesses. They continued their correspondence with mutual pleasure for some time ; but at last remorse and some apprehensions of the future made the Sicilian very urgent with her Gallant to perform his promises. It was impossible

ble for him longer to conceal his being engaged in the service of a state which made it unlawful for him to marry. There was nothing but tears and complaints for several days ; but as they loved one another sincerely, parting wou'd have been to them of all evils the greatest. And as they cou'd not continue long where they were without feeling the unhappy effects of their amour, they resolved to quit Sicily and retire into some Country which depended on the Turks. They cou'd not reproach one another ; for being both born to high fortunes, they made the same sacrifice to love.

Their design of retiring voluntarily into the Dominions of the Grand Seignior would have saved them from slavery, had they been able to prove it. But having embark'd on

52 *The Fair Greek.*

board a Venetian Vessel with a view of landing in Dalmatia, from whence they flatter'd themselves that they shou'd easily penetrate further, they had the misfortune to be taken at the mouth of the Gulf by some Turkish Rovers who were cruising on the Venetians. Their story was look'd upon as an artifice, and they were both sold to different purchasers in a Port of the Morea, from whence the unhappy Sicilian was conducted to Constantinople. If it was the bitterest misfortune to be torn from her Lover, what name must I give to that which soon beset her ! Being a little disfigured by incessant weeping, the Merchants of Constantinople did not perceive what they might expect from her beauty ; but an old woman, who had more discernment, laid out a good part of what she was worth to purchase

purchase her, and hoped soon to double it by selling her again. But as she had been educated in the principles of modesty and virtue, the pains which her odious Mistress took to awaken her charms and adapt them to the taste of the Turks, was a more insupportable cruelty to her than death itself. She was at last sold for a very round sum to the Seliſtar, who was very fond of her at first; but having satisfied his desires, and being disgusted by her deep melancholy and continual weeping, soon began to neglect her.

Theofa was only surprised at the adventures of this mourning Sicilian: What moved her compassion, was the seeing her so sensible of the infamy of her condition, and so overwhelm'd with grief and shame, that she cou'd not distinguish which

afflicted her most, the loss of her honour or that of her Lover. As I almost daily heard relations of events of this kind, I did not show so many signs of pity as Theofa expected. You seem insensible of misfortunes, said she, which wou'd I thought have moved you as much as myself. Do you think the unhappy Fair deserves less compassion than I feel for her? I think she is to be pitied, replied I, but much less than she wou'd have been, if her misery had not been the consequence of her own imprudence. And this is the difference, added I, between yours and hers. You are perhaps the only one of your sex, who being innocently train'd up to these disorders and hurried down a precipice without knowing it, felt a thorough change in your inclinations at the very name and first
hints

hints of virtue. And 'tis this, continued I with transport, my thinking you superior to all other women in the world, which makes you so amiable in my eyes. Theofa shook her head, and smiled; and without answering what concerned herself, insisted that the Sicilian Lady had merit enough to intitle her to her liberty, and that we ought to do something to procure it. Your desiring it, said I, is a sufficient obligation upon me to undertake it, and I wou'd not have you indebted to the Seliſtar for it. He came to us as I was promising to speak to him about it. I did not defer my request; but taking him aside, as if I desired to conceal the affair from Theofa, I ask'd if he was so fond of his Sicilian that he shou'd feel any pain in parting with her to me. She is yours, said he,

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from this minute ; and when I talked of the price, he rejected my offers as an affront. I guess'd by the joy he show'd on this occasion, that he was not only pleased with obliging me, but flatter'd himself also that this wou'd be a new motive to engage me to serve him with regard to Theofa, and that my example might be a means of inducing her to think of the pleasures of love. He told me a circumstance concerning his Slave which she had concealed from Theofa. I thought, at first, said he, that she was only afflicted for the loss of her liberty, and spared no pains to make her satisfied with her condition ; but I have since found that she is passionately in love with a young Slave of her own Country, who had dexterity enough to convey a letter into my
Seraglio,

Seraglio, and whose temerity I suffer'd to pass unpunished out of respect to his Master, who is one of my particular friends. I never thought it worth my while to inquire by what means they first became acquainted, and only commanded my Servants to double their diligence to prevent such disorders for the future. From this time, tho' I knew that she was uncommonly beautiful, my affections began to cool and abate with regard to my fair Sicilian. This advice, which the Seliſtar thought he was as a friend obliged to give me, wou'd have been a very necessary precaution, had my sentiments for her been such as he imagined they were. But having, on the contrary, no desires but that of obliging Theofa, I was pleased to think that the young Slave of whom the Seliſtar complain'd,

must certainly be the Sicilian Knight, and foresaw that I shou'd soon be obliged to shake off his fetters also. I waited 'till I was alone with Theofa before I told her that the fair Slave was ours. She was so overjoy'd to hear me add that I supposed that the Knight was not far off, and that I designed to restore him to his Mistress, that she thank'd me very heartily for my zeal to serve them. As I turned every thing to my own advantage, I did not doubt but that her tender concern for the happiness of these two Lovers was a sign that her heart was grown sensible at last, and drew from thence predictions in my own favour which I thought better founded than those of the Se-lictar.

The name of the Sicilian Lady was *Maria Rezati*, and that which
had

had been given her in her slavery *Molena*. I did not think proper to inform her of what I had done for her 'till the day of our departure, and desired Theofa only to tell her in general that she might hope for some unexpected happiness. Some advices which the Seliſtar received from Constantinople had diſſipated all his fears; and buſineſs calling me thither, I told Theofa that it was time for us to take our leave, and to return to Oru. I cou'd not, tho' I was very uneaſy at it, prevent the Seliſtar's going along with us. As ſoon as we ſet out we were preſented with a very extraordinary ſcene. The Sicilian Knight, who was indeed a Slave in the neighbourhood, had liberty enough to ſteal ſome hours every day from the duties of his condition, and theſe he uſed to employ in obſerving the

the walls of the Seliſtar. The danger to which he had been expoſed by the treachery of another Slave was ſo far from diſcouraging him, that he had with the ſame hazard a thouſand times ſince attempted to make farther diſcoveries. We ſet out about noon, in a large coach which I had on purpoſe for travelling. He was then about twenty ſteps from the door, where he ſaw ſome of my Servants who were getting ready to attend me. He was ſtruck with their dreſs, and aſked them in French, which he ſpoke very readily, to whom they belonged. I know not what ſcheme he formed upon their answer; but as ſoon as he had received it, the coach in which I was with the Seliſtar and the two Ladies, moved forwards, and he preſently perceived his Miſtreſs. It was im-
poſſible

possible to moderate his transports. He flew to the coach door and kept pace with it, tho' we drove very fast, calling me by my name, and beseeching me to hear him for a moment. The agony he was in, and his efforts to keep up with us and to make himself heard, put him out of breath, and made him look like a Lunatic who had some ill design upon us. The Seliſtar's attendants, who follow'd us with his Equipage, ſeeing a Slave who appeared to want reſpect for their maſter and me, ran to him and forced him away in a very imperious and violent manner. Suspecting who he was, I order'd my coachman to ſtop, pacified the Seliſtar's ſervants who continued to treat the young Slave ill, and deſired that he might be brought to me. The Seliſtar knew nothing of this affair,
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62 *The Fair Greek.*

nor of the reason of my taking notice of it; but was quickly let into it by the account which was given us by the Knight. The unhappy youth having with much difficulty recover'd his breath and assumed the air which suited with his birth, address'd a speech to me, which I shou'd in vain attempt to represent in so lively and moving a manner as it appeared when deliver'd by him. After he had in a few words inform'd us of his own story and that of his Mistress, he perceiv'd as he pointed to her in the coach that she was faint and lifeless by my side. Alas! cried he, she dies, help, help; she dies, and you assist her not!

We quickly brought her to herself. And turning her eyes upon Theofa, 'tis he, she cried; ah! 'tis the Knight, 'tis he himself. I did not want this declaration

declaration to know who he was. After I had comforted the young Slave, I asked the Selictar if he had interest enough in his Master to promise that his absence shou'd have no ill consequences. He assured me that he was one of his most intimate friends, and when I told him that I desired to take him along with me to Oru, he shou'd a piece of politeness which I wonder'd at in Turkey, in sending one of his servants to intreat his friend, who was a General Officer, to lend him his Slave for a few days: I foresee, said he after he had given this order, that you will have farther occasion for me; but I prevent you by an offer of my service, and can assure you that Nady Emir will refuse me nothing which he wou'd grant to any body else. We had some led horses, and I order'd one to be given to the Knight,

64 *The Fair Greek.*

Knight, who was almost frantic with joy. He suppress'd it however as much as possible, and knowing what his habit and station required of him, refrain'd both from approaching his Mistress, and from assuming any other behaviour than that which suited his circumstances.

I cou'd not help owning to the Solicitor, during the rest of our journey, that it was the desire which I had of serving these unfortunate Lovers which induced me to ask him to make Molena free, and that I accepted of the offer of his mediation to obtain of Nady Emir the same favour for the young Knight. Theofa quicken'd his zeal, by discovering her concern for their happiness. We arriv'd at Oru. The Knight stole away as we were getting out of my coach; but presently sent me word
that

The Fair Greek. 65

that he intreated me to suffer him to speak to me in private. The favour which he begg'd on his knees, calling me his father and deliverer, was to permit him to change his habit immediately. Tho' the least disguise is criminal in a Slave, yet in his circumstances I did not think that there was any danger in it. He presently appeared in a dress which wrought as great an alteration in his manners as his person; and knowing already that his Mistress was free, or that I was her only Master, he asked my leave to embrace her. This was a very moving Scene to us all. I renew'd the request which I had made to the Selictar to procure his liberty; tho' I did not doubt but that I had credit enough among the Turks to have obtain'd this favour of Nady Emir myself, notwithstanding

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ing I had no particular acquaintance with him.

The Seliſtar's obſtinacy in perſiſting to go along with us, obliged me to conceal my paſſion which did, I confeſs, no longer admit of increaſe. I was now thoroughly convinced of the virtue and modeſty of the amiable Theofa; and ſuppoſing that I had made a conqueſt of her heart, I reſolved to explain myſelf ſo fully as not to leave her a poſſibility of a doubt, which I look'd upon as the only obſtacle which hinder'd her owning a fondneſs for me. But I wanted to be more at leiſure for ſuch an undertaking. The Seliſtar had agreed to accompany me to Conſtantinople, and I magnified the importance of the affairs which call'd me thither, in order to haſten our departure. The Knight went along with

The Fair Greek. 67

with us. I had other reasons besides those concerning his liberty for not leaving him at Oru in my absence; or was at least undetermined concerning a difficulty which gave me some perplexity. As there was little probability of his thinking to return to Sicily with his Mistress, and less of his continuing with her without relapsing into all his former familiarities, I consider'd whether it would be proper to suffer such a correspondence in my house. My principles were not uncommonly rigid with regard to these affairs, and I do not pretend that I shou'd have thought the two Lovers guilty of any great crime in making themselves as happy as I had wish'd to be with Theofa; but if the heat of youth makes us sometimes forget the precepts of Religion, a sense of Honour checks and restrains
us;

us: And I was besides out of meer decency obliged to observe a thousand duties which my office imposed upon me. This scruple would have made me take some resolutions very disagreeable to the Knight, had he not deliver'd me from it upon our arrival at Constantinople. He told me that he designed, after the service which I was going to do him, to return to Sicily, in order to restore the money which his redemption would cost me, and to see whether he cou'd not find out some method of being released from the vows of his Order. His misfortunes had brought him to a right way of thinking. He consider'd that Maria Rezati was an only daughter, whose peace and reputation had been ruin'd by him. With a thousand good qualities which made him love her, and
of

of which even the idea of a Seraglio cou'd not give him a disgust, she had wealth enough to glut his ambition. These reflections, which he communicated to me with great calmness and modesty, determined him to do all he cou'd to obtain the liberty to marry her.

I commended his designs, though I saw that they wou'd be attended with difficulties of which he was not apprehensive. The Selictar went immediately to Nady Emir, who was returned to the City, and obtain'd the Knight of him with all the ease he imagined he shou'd. Tho' he generously deliver'd him to me without making any terms, yet as I was to have my money again I insisted on his taking the thousand Sequins which he had paid to Nady. After the account which the young Sicilian

Sicilian had given me of his intentions, I had no scruples about sending him back to his Mistress. He proposed only to go and take his leave of her, and was so eager to undertake a voyage from which he promised himself all his happiness, that I cou'd hardly prevail upon him to stay a little at Oru. I went thither two days after, and was extremely surpris'd to hear that he had alter'd his resolution. I cou'd not presently fathom this mystery, and only asked him what views he had substituted in the room of those which he had abandon'd. He told me that he had revolved in his own mind the difficulties of succeeding in his design and the dangers he shou'd expose himself to from his Order and the house of Rezati, and had resumed the resolution which he had formerly taken to settle in Turkey; that the

the Morea wou'd be a very agreeable and commodious situation; that he wou'd nevertheless marry his Mistress, not thinking himself obliged to perform the duties of a Knight of Malta, since he renounced the title and all the advantages of the Order; and that he had a considerable sum in Bills of Exchange upon Ragusa which he had left in the hands of a Banker at Medina, and did not doubt but that he shou'd be rich enough to return the money which I had paid to the Seliſtar, and to maintain himself with frugality where he designed to settle. He added that Maria Rezati's father, who was not immortal, had a very large estate; that he cou'd not prevent her from inheriting it; and that they must one time or other be rich enough to lead a very agreeable life, and to leave something to their children,

72 *The Fair Greek.*

dren, if it shou'd please Heaven to grant them any.

As this plan was so suddenly and so well concerted, I did not doubt but that it was owing to some extraordinary incident. I shou'd, however, never have suspected that Synesius was the author of it. The Knight cou'd not be two days at Oru, without hearing that this young Greek was there, and dangerously ill of his wound. He was so polite as to make him a visit; and finding him a very agreeable person, enter'd immediately into such a confidence with him as to inform him of all his adventures. The perplexity he was in with regard to his marriage inspired Synesius with this admirable plan, in which he hoped to find his own advantage. He offer'd the Knight a retreat on his father's Estate; and discovering in
his

his turn his passion for Theofa, they reposed the greatest confidence in each other, and flatter'd themselves that she wou'd be prevail'd on to follow them either by interest or love. They were far from having obtain'd her consent, and Synesius had told his friend that this was an affair which would require the utmost delicacy and caution. They flatter'd themselves, however, that they shou'd with the assistance of Maria Rezati, who warmly enter'd into their scheme, easily convince her, if she was Paniota Condoidi's daughter or had any love for Synesius, that she had no greater happiness to wish for than to return to her own Country.

Tho' I had some suspicion of the Knight, yet I had none of Synesius; and not thinking my own interest concerned in the affair, nor wanting

to know more of it than he desired I shou'd, I did not make the least objection to his design. The price of your liberty, said I, need not give you any uneasiness, for I shou'd not grudge a larger sum to contribute to your happiness. I supposed that Theofa had penetrated into the bottom of this intrigue, and burnt besides with a desire of seeing her. My impatience was so great that I thought the three days which I was obliged to pass in the City exceedingly long; and reflecting seriously on the condition of my heart, was in some confusion at having suffer'd her to gain so great an ascendant over it.

I went into Theofa's apartment, fully resolved not to leave it, till I had finish'd my treaty with her; but was so unfortunate as to find Maria Rezati there. They were become very intimate

intimate friends, and the Sicilian supposing it impossible for Theofa not to be in love with me, had ventured to make some reflections on the happiness of such an engagement as she supposed ours to be. This way of talking displeased Theofa. And I had hardly made my first compliments; when addressing herself to her Companion, under your present mistake, said she, you will be surprised to hear from the Gentleman's own mouth that I owe nothing to his love, and that I am indebted to his generosity only for all the favours which he has heaped upon me. They both seem'd to wait for my answer. I did not well understand the subject of their conversation, and was very sincere when I declared that admiration and not love was the first motive of the services which I had

76 *The Fair Greek.*

done her ; but, continued I looking very fondly upon her, it requires so little time to know your worth and 'tis so impossible when one does know it not to confine all one's affections to you ----- Theofa, who preceived the drift of this speech, had art enough to interrupt it. She said that she flatter'd herself that I had some friendship for her, that she shou'd always esteem it a more valuable blessing than all the pomp and pleasures in the World, and then immediately turn'd the conversation upon other subjects. What she said raised doubts in my mind, which wrought a strange alteration in my temper. Not being able to support the pain of them, I formed a resolution which will appear very childish to all but persons in love.

I went into her closet, and perceiving but too plainly how much my hopes were like to be retarded took a pen in my hand, in order to express what I found my tongue in my present confusion and fears wou'd never be able to utter. I wrote in the most tender and moving terms every thing which a heart thoroughly sensible of love and esteem cou'd urge to gain her affections; and tho' there was no obscurity in what I said, yet that I might not leave any possibility of a doubt, I concluded with telling her that I did not mean friendship, which was too cold a word to express the transports of my heart, and that I shou'd dedicate my whole life to love: Adding, however, as I had always kept it within due bounds, that it shou'd still be subservient to the pleasure of its author; that I only aspi-

78 *The Fair Greek.*

red to a return of affection and shou'd leave her to give what proofs of it she pleased.

Having sooth'd my pains a little by this declaration, I returned with an air of greater tranquillity, and beseech'd Theofa to step into her closet alone. She staid there a few minutes, and then coming back desired me with a very grave countenance to go thither again. Under the billet which I had left for her she had written an answer, which was so short, and of so extraordinary a kind that I shall never forget it. A wretch, said she, who learn'd of you the names of honour and virtue, who knows not that of her father, the Slave of the Governor of Patras and Cheriber, can certainly inspire nothing but pity; I cannot therefore see myself in the object of your love.

I cou'd not help making a very loud exclamation on reading this answer. An apprehension lest some evil had befallen me, made her run to the Closet-door. I stretched out my arms to invite her to come and hear me explain myself; but she returned to her Companion as soon as she was satisfied that she had nothing to fear with regard to my health. I was tortured with the most violent passions. But not being able to abandon my hopes, I resumed my pen to erase the horrible picture which she had made of herself, and drew one which represented her, on the contrary, in all the perfections with which Nature had adorned her. This, added I, is her whom I love, and her features are so deeply engraven on my heart, that it is impossible for me to be mistaken. I went back again, and pray-

ed her once more to go into the Closet; but she smiled, and desired me to allow her more time to examine what I had left there.

This answer comforted me a little. I retired however in order to shake off the remains of my trouble. It appeared so strange even to me that I shou'd have need of so many precautions to declare my sentiments to a girl whom I had taken out of the arms of a Turk, and who wou'd at first perhaps have thought herself happy in mine, that in the midst of all my fondness in which I indulged myself with pleasure, I reproached my own heart with its cowardice, which suited so ill with my years and experience. But besides some secret remorse which I cou'd never get rid of when I remember'd the virtuous maxims which I had a thousand times
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The Fair Greek. 81

endeavour'd to instil into Theofa, and the apprehension of making myself contemptible in her eyes by a passion which after all wou'd have ruin'd the principles which I had been so careful to teach her; it is easy to conceive that so striking a person as hers is for that very reason the most apt to excite respect and fear, when instead of finding the facility which so many charms make one desire and so many benefits seem to promise, one is not only check'd by an apprehension of displeasing, which is a common effect of love, but as it were repulsed by modesty, honour, and the air and language of every virtue which we did not expect to find in so enchanting a form. As the principles of justice and honour were natural to me, I twenty times resolv'd to do a violence to myself,

and to leave Theofa to pursue her inclinations to virtue; but hurried away by a passion which my silence and even my moderation continually increased, I renew'd my vows to Heaven, not to exceed the bounds I had prescribed myself, and thought I made a great sacrifice to wisdom, in keeping my resolution to ask Theofa nothing but what she shou'd voluntarily grant me. The expectation of the answer which she had desired time to give me, made me more easy the rest of the day, and I did not seek for an opportunity of being with her alone. She also seem'd to avoid it. And I observed that she was in more perplexity than I had ever seen her before.

When I rose the next morning one of her Slaves brought me a Letter which was sealed with a great deal of
care.

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care. Heavens! how eager I was to read it! But how dejected and spiritless when I found that it robb'd me even of all foundations of hope! This terrible Letter, which Theofa was the whole night in writing, wou'd have been inserted here intire, and indeed it wou'd have well deserved it, had not some reasons which follow and which I shall never recollect without grief and shame, made me tear it in pieces with great indignation. But sorrow and consternation were the first passions it excited. Theofa had made a review in it of all the circumstances of her story, that is to say of her misfortunes, her failings and my benefits. And reasoning upon them with more strength and justness than I have ever observed in the best Authors, she concluded that it was neither right for her
who

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who had so many errors and disorders to repair, to indulge a passion which cou'd serve only to renew them ; nor for me who had been her Tutor in virtue, to use the just authority which I had over her and even her inclination to love me, to ruin the noble principles for which she was more indebted to my instructions than her own inquiries. She protested however, if she shou'd ever be capable of forgetting the duties which she began to relish and understand, that I was the only person in the World who cou'd make her guilty of so much weakness. But though her heart prompted her to make this confession, she conjured me not to repeat declarations and testimonies of love of the danger of which she was so sensible. Or if I cou'd not easily grant her this request,
and

and her presence was so destructive of my peace as she fear'd it was, she desired leave to pursue her former scheme of quietly retiring into some Christian Country, that she might not reproach herself with interrupting the happiness of her Master and Father, to whom the least sacrifice which she ow'd was that of her own peace and satisfaction.

I suppress some other ideas which I still retain of this Letter, only because I shou'd despair of representing them with all the strength and beauty which they had in her manner of expression. And as my judgment is more matured by age at the time of my writing these Memoirs, I ought to confess with shame that I did not at first view in the most favourable light so many vertuous and sensible reflections. But considering
them

them on the contrary as the ruin of all my hopes, I was very sorry that I had furnished such offensive weapons against myself. Was it my business, said I, to propagate maxims which suit only with a cloister? What had I to do to catechise and preach up virtue and chastity to a girl of seventeen? Ha, ha, ha, a very ridiculous employment truly for one of my age, rank and principles! And I am deservedly punished for my folly.

I carried this false way of reasoning still greater lengths, and made a review of my whole conduct, in order to wipe off in some measure these scandalous aspersions and reproaches. But is it my fault, added I? Were my instructions calculated to instil such rigorous virtue? I did indeed represent to her the infamy of love

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as it is practised in Turkey, and condemned the easiness with which the women yield to the desires of the men, the grossness of their pleasures, and their ignorance of all kind of delicacy and decorum; but did I think to give her an aversion from an honourable, a discreet, a reputable amour, which is of all blessings the sweetest, and the greatest advantage which a woman can make of her beauty? She deceives herself, and misunderstood me. But I'll soon set her right: My reputation in this affair is as nearly concerned as my love.

I continued in this way of thinking for some time, and supposed that my chief error had consisted in putting into Theofa's hands some Treatises of Morality, the principles of which, as is usual in most Books, were over strict and rigorous, and
were

were probably understood too literally by a girl who had never thought of them before. As soon as she knew enough of our language to read a French Author, I gave her Nicole's *Essays*; because as I saw she was naturally inclined to think and reflect, I was willing to make her acquainted with a man who is an eternal Reasoner. She read him with great eagerness. The *Logic of Messieurs de Port-Royal* was another Book which I thought proper to form and strengthen her judgment, and she perused it with the same application and pleasure. I fancied that Works of this kind had done more hurt than good to her lively imagination, and that they had in short corrupted her taste and turned her head. This reflection gave me a little ease, as I knew, my Library being furnished
with

with all sorts, that I cou'd easily put Books into her hands from which I might expect quite contrary effects. I did not purpose however to give her licentious Authors. Our best Romances, our Poetry, Plays, and even some Books of Morality, in which the Writers have made some grains of allowance for the force of the passions and custom, seem'd to me very proper to reclaim Theofa from her too rigid principles. And this design gave me so much satisfaction that I was able to compose my countenance, and to see her with some tranquillity. I had soon an opportunity of talking with her in private; and showing some though very little displeasure at her Letter, I expressed more admiration of her virtue than regret at being repulsed, and talked of her opposition to my desires only

as

as a motive to engage me to subdue them.

I turned our conversation upon the progress which she made in her studies, and commending some new Books which I had received from France, promised to send them to her in the afternoon. She was far from being so moderate and calm as I affected to be. Her joy broke forth into transports. She seized my hand, and pressing it to her lips, have I then, said she, found my father again, my peace, my comfort, and all I hoped for when I deliver'd myself up to his generous friendship! Ah! what condition will be more happy than mine! I was greatly affected with this effusion of her passions; and leaving her without adding a word more, retired to my closet, and abandon'd myself to my
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sorrows which stifled for a long while all my reflections.

What wonderful simplicity! How sincere! Heavens! how amiable she is! I made a thousand other exclamations before I was able to range my thoughts in any order. It was however virtue herself which spoke from her lips. My scruples were the first motions which arose in my mind. Shall I then sacrifice so much merit to an irregular passion! My Books were before me, and I cast my eyes upon Cleopatra, the Princess of Cleves and others which I designed to give Theosa. But shall I incumber her fancy with a thousand Chimeras, from which her understanding can receive no benefit! And supposing that they shou'd awaken some sentiments of love in a heart which is naturally disposed

posed to it, shall I be satisfied and think myself happy in owing it to fictions and artifice? I know her well. She will recur to her Nicole, and her Art of Thinking; and I shall have the mortification to see the illusion vanish in less time than was required for its birth; or if it shou'd be lasting, I shall find but little happiness in a passion which I shall constantly ascribe to motives in which an affection for me had no part.

It was by such reflections as these that I insensibly calm'd the tempest in my bosom. Let me try, said I with more serenity, how far reason is capable to lead me. There are two difficulties in my way, and I must encounter one of them. I must subdue my passion, or triumph over Theosa's resistance. Against which shall I proclaim war? Is it not more
just

just for me to turn my arms against myself, and by that means endeavour to procure my peace which will at the same time insure Theofa's? She is, she says, inclined to love me; but she has suppress'd her rising passion. And what cou'd I pretend to from her love? If I consult her interest and mine, is it not better for us both not to pass the bounds of friendship?

This was indeed the wisest thing I cou'd do; but I flatter'd myself with having more power over my heart and conduct than I really had. If I immediately resolved to use no method to incline her to return my passion but persevering to adore and serve her, and if I imposed upon myself severer laws than ever with regard to the familiarity in which I was obliged to live with her, I nevertheless

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vertheless felt the fatal shaft in my heart. Thus was my own breast, the peace of which is the dearest blessing of life, like to become a scene of eternal contention. I presently found the effects of it, and blindly submitted to my fate. And yet how far was I from foreseeing all the anguish which I was laying up for myself.

During these melancholy reflections, Synesius whom I had not seen since he received his wound, and who began to grow better, sent one of my servants to make his excuses to me. I had neglected him since this accident, and not being much provoked at the attempt of a Lover, had order'd that care shou'd be taken of him, and that he shou'd be sent back to his father's as soon as he was well. I was so much pleased with his submission,

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mission, that having enquired particularly concerning his health, I went to his chamber when I found he cou'd not yet leave it with safety. He wou'd, if possible, have sunk into the earth, to have hid himself from my presence; but I encouraged him by what I said, and only desired him to acquaint me with the whole of his views, the greatest part of which I knew already. This was an equivocal question, tho' I meant nothing more than his visit to Theofa. He trembled with surprise, and his confusion raising suspicions which I had never entertain'd before, I increased it by renewing my request. He endeavour'd to rise, and when I had forced him to keep his seat, he conjured me to have pity on an unhappy youth who never meant to offend me. I heard him with a great deal

deal of attention. He told me that he was always ready to own Theofa for his sister, and that he shou'd be more desirous than either of his brothers to give her this title whenever his father shou'd think proper to declare his pleasure; but as he did not see any great certainty in this matter, that he had indulged himself in sentiments which might be more advantageous to Theofa than the discovery of her birth and some small share of Condoidi's estate; that he had, in short, offer'd to marry her; and though the eldest of his brothers was intitled to inherit his father's estate, yet he had one which came to him by his mother; that he hoped therefore that he was not guilty of any want of respect to me, in putting off his return to Constantinople for a few days, in order to have an opportunity

opportunity of declaring his sentiments to Theofa; that he flatter'd himself on the contrary that I shou'd condescend to approve them; and that as for the offers which he had made the Knight, he never proposed that they shou'd be executed without my consent. And informing me of their scheme of settling in the Morea, he made a merit of having sincerely declared what he apprehended I had heard from others.

When I coolly examined his words and intentions, I thought him less guilty, than weak and imprudent in not perceiving that he ought to have fully cleared up his doubts concerning Theofa's birth, before he pretended to make her any propositions of marriage. I cou'd not besides pretend that it was any crime in him to attempt to rob me of a heart

to which he knew not my pretensions. Far therefore from alarming him with reproaches, I only show'd him the weakness and folly of his scheme: And what to be sure he did not dare to hope for, I promised to make a new attempt with regard to his father in order to procure further satisfaction concerning Theofa's birth, and exhorted him to get well as fast as he cou'd, that he might be in a condition to go and bring Lord Condoidi to my house; assuring him at the same time that he himself shou'd be a witness of all that pass'd between us. This promise, and the kind manner in which I made it, contributed more to his cure than all the care and skill of the Surgeons.

I said nothing which I did not design to perform; but then it was not Synesius whom I meant to serve, all
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my views being directed to the advantage of Theofa. I cou'd have no better way of trying Condoidi than to let him think that his son was going to marry her. I had formed this design before, but did not dare to ask my heart what it promised itself from it. After some days, which the impatience of Synesius made him think very long, he came to tell me that he thought himself sufficiently recover'd to return to the City. Bring your father hither then, said I; but take care not to let him suspect what are the reasons which make me wish to see him. They came in the evening to Oru. I received Lord Condoidi with great civility, and entering immediately upon the motives of my sending his son to him: To what have you exposed us, said I; and if I had not accidentally discover'd the

100 *The Fair Greek.*

intentions of Synesius, of what wou'd you have made us guilty? He is determined to marry Theofa; but you will consider whether you ought to suffer him to do it. The Old Gentleman was at first greatly confounded; but he soon recover'd himself, and thanked me for checking the rash inclinations of his son. I design to marry him to a lady, added he, who is more suitable to his fortune than one whose only advantage is the honour of being protected by you. I told him that it might not perhaps be always in his power to oppose the violence of a youthful passion. He replied very coldly, that he had infallible methods of doing it; and turning our conversation upon other subjects, the wily Greek eluded for upwards of an hour all my endeavours to bring him back again to the
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the affairs of Theofa. He took his leave of me with great politeness; and ordering his son to follow him, they set out together for Constantinople.

Some time after, being surpris'd at having heard nothing of Synesius, my curiosity made me send one of my servants to Constantinople to inquire after his health. His father thank'd me for sending, but added with a sneer, that I need not be in any pain for the future with regard to his son's marriage, since he had sent him under a strong guard into the Morea, and was sure that he would not easily escape from the place where he had order'd him to be confined. I had good nature enough to be sorry for this severity, Theofa was very much concerned at it, and the Knight (for I conceal'd it from no body) being

102 *The Fair Greek.*

more affected than one cou'd well have imagined with the misfortune of his friend, formed a resolution which he carefully concealed from us. Under pretence of going to Ragusa for his Bills of Exchange, he undertook to deliver Synesius from his confinement; and the dangers to which his friendship exposed him, will soon give a very noble idea of his character.

I told Theofa of the new efforts which I had made to move her father to own her. She was concerned, tho' not beyond measure, at my ill success; and I was charmed to hear her say that I was so good to her, that she shou'd never be sensible of the want of a father. What answer shou'd I not have made to this tender mark of gratitude, had I given my heart the liberty of speaking!

ing! But, faithful to my resolutions, I confined myself to the language of a father, and assured her that I shou'd always look upon her as a daughter. An incident which at that time alarmed Constantinople and all the neighbouring Countries, plainly proved how dear I was to the amiable Theofa. The plague broke out, and no remedy cou'd be found for it for some time. I was attack'd with it; and my first care was to order my servants to carry me into a Tent in the Garden, where I order'd no body to come near me but my Physician and my Valet de Chambre. This precaution, which charity obliged me to observe, was also a piece of prudence; for I shou'd never have cleared my house of this dreadful distemper, had it once been communicated to my Domestics. But

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a command which seem'd particularly to regard Theofa, was as little heeded by her as her fears. She came into the Tent in spite of my servants, and attended me with the greatest sollicitude and diligence. She was taken ill herself; and my intreaties, prayers and complaints to make her retire were all to no purpose. A bed was prepared for her in my anti-chamber, where all the violence of her own disorder did not hinder her from being continually anxious about mine.

What sentiments did my heart not feel for her after my recovery! The Seliſtar, who had been informed of my illness, made me a friendly visit as soon as he thought he might do it with safety. His heart was not yet at rest. The time he had been absent from Oru, had been employ'd
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in combating a passion from which he began to find that he shou'd never reap any benefit. But he could not hear of her tenderness for me without discovering some confusion, and a jealousy which he had never felt before. He was very uneasy during the rest of our conversation ; and when it was time for him to take his leave, he did not consider that my weakness required me to keep my chamber, but desired me to go along with him into the Garden. I consented : And after he had taken a few steps, my eyes, said he in an angry tone, are open'd at last, and I blush at their having been shut so long. It is easy for a Frenchman, added he with a sneer, to make a fool of a Turk.

As I expected nothing less than so rude a reproach, nor thought of any thing

thing when I praised Theofa but to commend the natural goodness of her disposition, I own that I was a little confounded and paused a while for an answer. However, whether my natural moderation hinder'd me from being blinded by my resentment, or whether the weakness of my body increased the strength of my mind, the reply which I made the haughty Seliſtar was rather solid and modest than offensive. The French, said I, (for I always prefer the interest of my Country to my own) are strangers to artifice, and use honourable methods only to succeed in their designs. As for me, I never thought of shutting your eyes, and am not at all sorry at their being open'd. I must tell you however that they deceive you, if they make you think ill of my friendship or sincerity. This
speech

speech abated in some measure the heat of the Seliſtar. What! ſaid he, did you not aſſure me that generoſity only engaged you to ſerve Theoſa, and that you felt no ſentiments for her but thoſe of friendſhip? I did by no means deceive you, replied I: They were the firſt ſprings of my actions, and I ſhou'd have been leſs ſatisfied with my heart had it then acted from any other motives. But ſince you preſs me to diſcover myſelf, I own that I am now in love with Theoſa, and that I have been no more able than you to withſtand the force of her charms. I will however add two circumſtances to this confeſſion which ought to make you eaſy: I had no paſſion for her when I took her out of Cheriber's Seraglio, and it has ſince been as fruitleſs as yours. This, continued I with leſs pride

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pride than politeness, is I think sufficient to satisfy a man whom I love and esteem.

He indulged, all the time I was speaking, the most gloomy reflections; and recollecting every thing which he had observed in our correspondence since I received Theofa from him, did not fail to vent the venom of his heart upon every circumstance which look'd suspicious. But having nothing to reproach me with but the innocent testimony of the gratitude of this amiable girl, he concluded at last that I shou'd not so imprudently have boasted of it, had I been indebted for it to love. This thought, tho' it did not restore his peace and serenity, silenced his black suspicions, and disposed him to take his leave without any marks of hatred or anger. You can't forget, added he

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he as he was going away, that I offer'd to sacrifice my passion to you, when I thought that my friendship oblig'd me to do it; and we shall see whether I have rightly understood the principles on which you act, and what is the boasted difference between your morals and ours. He quitted me without giving me time to reply.

This adventure made me again consider what reproaches I merited with regard to friendship or love. The only case in which I thought I cou'd deserve those of the Seliſtar wou'd have been that of a successful amour, which might have made him apprehend that my concurrence had hinder'd his success. But never since the birth of my passion for Theofa had I even so much as once thought of supplanting a Rival. She herself had assured me, that she had no inclination

110 *The Fair Greek.*

clination for him; and the crime with which he charged me, was the very thing of which I was entirely innocent. Besides, I had myself so much reason to complain of my fate, that being therefore perhaps less affected by that of another, I resolved to laugh at his uneasiness to sooth my own. In this disposition I returned to Theofa, and asked her with a smile what she thought of the Seliotar, who accused her of loving me, and imputed to me as a crime a happiness which I was so far from enjoying. Maria Rezati, whose friendship for her daily increased, had got sufficient light concerning our history, to perceive of what kind my sentiments for her were. As she was never out of her company she had address enough to engage her to make discoveries, which soon gave her a good deal

The Fair Greek. **III**

deal of influence. She told Theofa that she was not sufficiently sensible of the blessings which she slighted, and that one of her merit would have it in her power to draw very great advantages from so lively a passion as mine. At last, endeavouring to raise her hopes, she bid her remember that I was not married; that nothing was so common in Christian Countries, as to see a woman advanced to the highest stations by that means; that my prejudice in her favour might make me look upon her past adventures only as the faults and injuries of fortune, and confine my reflections to the conduct which she had since observed; and at such a distance from all my Relations, that I shou'd ask advice of my own heart only. She repeated the same things a thousand times, and being a little vex'd

112 *The Fair Greek.*

vex'd at their being heard with indifference, she protested that she wou'd without Theofa's leave and merely out of her zeal to serve her apply to me, in order insensibly to incline me to make her friend happy. Theofa in vain opposed this motion with the strongest reasons and intreaties; her opposition was look'd upon as weakness or fear.

Nothing was equal to her perplexity and confusion. Her thoughts were far from aspiring to riches and honour, and she dreaded the opinion which I might form of her vanity and presumption. After she had in vain renew'd her endeavours to change her friend's resolution, she determined to forewarn me of a negotiation, from which the least which she thought she had to fear was the loss of my friendship and affection. After many attempts

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tempts and long struggles with her bashfulness and fears, she was wholly vanquished by them, and her only expedient was to employ a *Caloger* who was the Head of a Greek Church about two miles from Oru, with whom she had contracted some acquaintance. Having very readily undertook to execute her commission, he informed me of it in a very humorous manner; and pretending that it greatly increased the admiration which he already had of so extraordinary a Lady, he asked me if I thought there was much difference between this virtuous fear, and that which inclines a modest *Caloger* to shun Ecclesiastical Dignities. I smiled at his comparison. And as I had more experience than he of the art and vanity of women, shou'd have suspected any body but Theofa, and have look'd upon this appearance of modesty

114 *The Fair Greek.*

modesty as a well contrived plot to found my intentions. But this wou'd have been the greatest injustice to my amiable Ward. She had no occasion, said I to the Caloger, to give herself so much trouble to prevent my having an ill opinion of her; and pray tell her that I wou'd soon convince her, were I at liberty to follow my own inclination, of the great esteem and value which I have for her. This was the only answer which suited with my station, but it was far from expressing the real sentiments of my heart.

Having discontinued my evening walks with Theofa in my Garden, and the visits which I used to make her in her own apartment, I was forced as it were to pursue her in order to obtain an opportunity of saying the same thing to her. She was become

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so formidable to me that I no longer approached her without trembling; and yet the most tolerable moments of my life were those which I pass'd in her company. Her idea accompanied me wherever I went, and I was often ashamed of not being able to shake off the thoughts of her even in the midst of my most serious affairs. The acquaintance of the Caloger, which she had procured me, engaged me in several walks, which suited ill enough perhaps with the dignity of my character; but to be with Theofa was sufficient to make me insensible of every thing but the pleasure of her company. I have not however forgot some circumstances of the first visit which we made the Caloger. He was properly speaking only a Priest, venerable for his age and the esteem which all the Greeks had for him.

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him. His revenue was increased by his oeconomy; and the presents which he continually receiv'd from the Faithful of his own Communion, enabled him to lead a very easy and agreeable life. The ignorance in which he had lived 'till he was seventy years old, had not prevented his having a Library; which he esteemed the principal ornament of his house. As the Greeks have an high opinion of the knowledge of the French, he carried me into it. But when I expected to see him display his Literary Treasures, I was surpris'd to hear his first observation fall upon an old chair which he show'd me in a corner. How many years do you think, said he, it has stood there? Five and thirty. For so long I have enjoy'd my Office, and have had the pleasure to observe that no body ever made use of it in all that time.

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time. One wou'd think he revered even the dust with which it was covered. But casting my eyes at the same time on the Books which were near it, I perceived that they were in the same condition. This observation put a whimsical thought into my head, which was to measure the depth of the dust which was upon the Books and the chair; and finding it nearly equal, I offered to lay the Caloger a wager that the chair had not been more useless than the Books for the time he mention'd. He did not well understand what I meant, tho' he had observed the operation with the profoundest attention. He was surprised however at my great knowledge, and thought I had a wonderful talent at finding out the truth.

He had been married three times, tho' the Canons of the Greek Church
forbid

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forbid Ecclesiastics to marry more than once. The reason of his obtaining this dispensation, was his not having Children by his two first Wives; for he pretended as the propagation of Society was one of the ends of Marriage, that he ought as soon as one Wife died to be allow'd to take another, that he might perfectly fulfil so laudable a design. The Greek Council submitted to so strange a way of reasoning; and the Caloger, who had communicated no more fertility to his third wife than to his former two, was sorry that he had not sooner found out his unfitness for matrimony, or better performed the duties of it. Such is the ignorance of the Heads of a very numerous Church, tho' it is much less so than they suppose it to be. There is so great a difference in their opinions, that they have nothing

thing which is common to them all but the name of Christians, and their obstinacy in mutually supporting their errors.

Maria Rezati did not forget the promise which she had made Theofa; and as I was apprized of it, I had a good deal of pleasure in observing the several steps of an artful woman towards the mark she aims at. But being weary of an artifice which I saw thro', and taking the opportunity of this accident to let Theofa know what I never had courage enough to tell her myself, I intreated her to be as fully convinced as her friend that my passion would be always the same. My reason told me that I ought to stop there, but I did not know all that I had to apprehend from my weakness.

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It was about six weeks since the departure of the Sicilian Knight, when Maria Rezati received a Letter from him in which he informed her that his friendship for Synesius had made him triumph over a thousand difficulties, and that the young Greek, who thought that he had nothing more to apprehend from his father, was very willing to grant them a retreat on one part of the Estate which had been left him by his mother. He added that they depended on her to persuade Theofa to come and settle with them, and that Synesius was resolved, if she had not already consented to accept of their offers, to return to Constantinople to engage her to do it. They did not seem to trouble themselves in the least about my consent, and I had the satisfaction to think that they
judged

judged very favourably of my familiarity with Theofa, since they believed me capable of parting with her with so much indifference. But they took care not to discover all their designs in their Letter ; for they were determin'd, if they met with any difficulties from Theofa or me, to use all methods of art and violence to get her out of my hands.

They were without doubt prompt-ed by the success of their late enter-prize to undertake new ones. They were suffer'd to live peaceably at Academe only by the indulgence of the Governor, who wink'd at a rash action for which he might lawfully have punished them. Synesius being confin'd by the order of his father in an old Castle, knew not how long his imprisonment was to last, and saw no probability of succeeding in any

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attempts which he might make to recover his liberty. His Guards who were only a few Domestics, might easily have been bribed, had the Knight been in circumstances to do it; but having only a small sum which I lent him to defray the expences of his journey, he had no way to set his friend at liberty but force or stratagem. His speaking the Greek and Turkish languages but very poorly was another objection which I never knew how he surmounted. He wou'd perhaps have been less venturesome, had he been sensible of the difficulties of his enterprize; for they who succeed in rash attempts generally owe their victory to their ignorance of their danger. He arrived all alone at Acade, and took a lodging near Condoidi's Castle. His care for some days was to examine its strength, and
to

The Fair Greek. 123

to satisfy himself in what part of it Synesius was confined. He was so far from being able to force the gates, that it was not easy for him to get near them. He determined at last to make a little hole thro' the wall, directly opposite to Synesius's chamber, and he effected it in the night with great labour and diligence. Having made himself known to Synesius, he told him with what design he came thither. They agreed to meet at this peep hole every night, and that Synesius informing his Guards of all the News which he heard from his friend, shou'd persuade them that he had a Familiar Spirit which gave him an account of every thing which was transacted in the Empire. In short, this idle tale was presently credited not only in Acade, but in all the neighbouring cities, and the

124 *The Fair Greek.*

two young Sparks laugh'd for some time at the credulity of the Public.

They rightly supposed that so extraordinary an affair would excite a good deal of curiosity with regard to the adventures of Synesius, and prejudice the Turks, as they are very superstitious, in his favour; and that he shou'd by this means obtain his liberty. But the Governor of Acade tho' he seem'd surpris'd at the story, did not care to set a son at liberty contrary to the will of his father. The Knight therefore reaping no benefit from artifice, had recourse to violence. He got acquainted with some of the Domesticks of the Castle, and privately conveying a sword to Synesius in a visit which he made him in his prison, assisted him with so much vigour and resolution, that the servants, tho' they were all drawn

drawn together by this uproar, were not able to prevent their flight. They were so imprudent as to publish this affair themselves, without considering that they were liable to be punished, as well for the pretended visions of Synesius as for their having made use of force ; two things which are seldom pardon'd among the Turks. But the Governor being informed of the cause of the imprisonment of the young Greek, thought the rigor of his father excessive, and was easily prevail'd on to wink at a fault which was the effect of friendship.

It was just after this victory that the Knight had written to Maria Rezati. And he added to what I have related before, that Synesius and he were then setting out together for Ragusa, that they expected Theofa's answer

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at their return, and that they shou'd take their measures accordingly. All the terms of this Letter were so guarded that Maria made no difficulty of communicating it to us. This frankness convinced me that I cou'd not reproach her with meaning any harm. She had before unbosom'd herself to Theofa, or rather had founded her inclinations at the birth of their design; and finding that she liked none but Christian Countries, had given up all hopes as soon as she heard of the confinement of Synefius. But this Letter a little revived them; and as she had been a constant witness of my behaviour to Theofa, and supposed that I shou'd leave her to follow her own inclination, she was far from thinking that she shou'd displease or afflict me by showing me the Knight's Epistle.

Passion

Passion getting the better of the natural calmness of my temper, I heard this affair with more resentment than I ought to have show'd to a woman. I treated their design as a scheme of scandalous pleasures, which suited well enough with the false step which Maria Rezati had taken in forsaking her father, but which it was even an affront to propose to so prudent a person as Theofa. And as their plan was formed in my house, I went so far as to call it treason and ingratitude. Tho' the views of Synesius, said I, seem'd to me as extravagant as that for which his father justly punished him, yet as his being with me was the occasion of his misfortune, I was unwilling to increase it by reproaches; but I can't so easily excuse a woman from whom I might justly expect other returns.

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But if my complaints were too harsh and severe, the effects of them were not less so. They inspired Maria Rezati with a hatred against me which was a very ill return for the services I had done her. I know that reproaching persons with benefits is deem'd an offence : But an excess of delicacy did not belong to a woman who had run away from her own Country with her Gallant, who had been in a *Se-raglio*, and whom, to do myself justice, I had entertaind too long in my house. Theofa talked in the properest manner to calm my displeasure. There is so little probability in their scheme, said she, that I am surpris'd that they cou'd ever seriously propose it. The levity of two young men does not promise much constancy in their undertaking; and then Lord Condoidi will without doubt quickly
spoil

spoil their project. And I wonder what cou'd make them think of offering me the favour of being one of their party, since they know I am as averse from the title which Synesius offers me, as indifferent to that which his father obstinately persists in denying me. This speech made me a little easy; but fearing lest the counsels of Maria Rezati shou'd make a deeper impression in my absence, I resolv'd to find an opportunity of sending her to her Lover. Hearing that a Vessel wou'd sail in a few days for Lepanto, I desired the Captain to take charge of a Lady whose affairs call'd her to the Morea, and sent one of my own servants to wait on her thither. We parted with an air of so much constraint and reserve, that I saw I cou'd have no dependance on the friendship of Maria Rezati for the

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future. Theofa having seen many instances of her imprudence, was grown cool in her affection for her, and very little regretted her departure. Neither of us however expected any marks of her resentment.

I was more easy after she was gone than I had been for a long while before; and tho' I resolved not to alter my conduct with regard to Theofa as long as I lived, yet the sole pleasure of enjoying more freedom with her supplied the place of all those which I no longer dared to hope from love. The Seliſtar seem'd to have renounced his pretensions, which had at last cost me his friendship: For he had not been at Oru since my illness, and when I was obliged to see him in my frequent journies to Constantinople, I found no remains of the friendly warmth with which he used

to visit and load me with all kind of civilities: I did not, however, change my conduct with regard to him. But after he had treated me for some weeks with this coldness, he was piqued at my seeming insensible of it, and I was told that he complain'd bitterly of my behaviour. I thought myself therefore obliged to demand an explanation of the grounds of his complaints. Our conversation was warm enough at first to make me apprehend some ill consequences from it. I was offended at the liberty he had taken with my character, and knew how incompatible lukewarmness and silence were with friendship. He disowned the reports I had heard, and promised to make the author of them publickly retract what he had said. But being less tractable with regard to Theofa, he severely reproached

proached me now as he had done before at Oru, with having sacrificed his passion to my own. As I was satisfied with regard to the complaints which I thought I had against him, and was desirous of recovering his friendship, I endeavour'd to revive the good opinion which he used to have of my sincerity. I made a new avowal of my sentiments for Theofa, and protested in terms which make the deepest impression on a Turk, that I not only was not but did not endeavour to be happier than he. His answer if he had studied it beforehand, cou'd not have been more to his purpose. You desire her happiness at least, said he, looking very earnestly upon me. I do, replied I without hesitation. Well, answer'd he, if she is the same as you received her from me when she came out of Che-

Cheriber's Seraglio, I am resolved to marry her. I know her father, and by some promises which I made of advancing his fortune which I will punctually perform, have prevail'd on him to own her on this condition. But the moment I found myself determined to execute a design which I have long struggled against, I was attack'd by a thousand tormenting scruples which I cou'd not satisfy. You have taught me too much delicacy. Your conversation and maxims have transformed me into a perfect Frenchman. I cou'd not prevail on myself to constrain a woman whose heart I thought was another's. What have I not endured! But if you are sincere in what you have told me, I resume my resolutions. You know our customs. I'll make Theofa my wife, with all the priviledges and distinctions

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inctions to which the name intitles her.

Nothing ever startled and terrified me so much as this declaration. My honour which I had just engaged, my unhappy passion which I cou'd not get rid off, and a thousand cutting thoughts which stung my heart and mind, made me in a moment feel more bitterness and anguish than I had ever in my whole life been sensible of before. Ah! you discover, cried he, what I wou'd not willingly believe. This was saying that he question'd my integrity. No, replied I, you ought not to affront me by your suspicions. But as I know your laws and customs, shou'd I not remind or inform you that Theofa is a Christian? How was it possible for her father to forget it? I confess tho' she has been educated in
their

their customs, that I never was curious enough to ask since her being with me what her thoughts were with regard to Religion; but she corresponds with a Caloger who visits her very often, and tho' I never saw her practice religious ceremonies of any kind, yet I believe that a regard for the principles of her parents and those of her Country have bias'd her in favour of Christianity. The Seliſtar being struck with this reflection, answer'd that Condoidi himself believed her to be a Muſſulman. And he added several other reasons for supposing that she wou'd, like most other women in Turkey, be easily prevail'd on, whatever might be her own Religion, to profess that of her Husband. I had recover'd myself a little; and perceiving that objections ought not to be started by me, I told him that it
was

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was to no purpose to raise difficulties concerning an affair which he might clear up in the first visit which he shou'd make to Theofa. I had two views in this answer; one was to avoid his charging me with this commission, and the other to terminate as soon as possible a new uneasiness, which doubts and delays wou'd make more insupportable.

Tho' I hitherto flatter'd myself that Theofa was in love with me; yet supposing her to be blinded by the honour of becoming one of the first women of the Othman Empire, I was I thought contented to sacrifice my peace and satisfaction to hers. I might indeed have look'd upon the Seliſtar's happiness with an envious eye, but shou'd not have interrupted it, whatever uneasiness it might have cost me; nay, I shou'd probably have contri-

contributed to the advancement of the only woman in the world whom I loved. However, after I had taken leave of the Seliſtar, who promiſed to viſit me in the evening at Oru, the moſt urgent buſineſs I had was I thought to return thither. I made uſe of no artifice to diſcover by degrees how Theoſa wou'd take this matter. My heart wanted to be ſatiſfied immediately. You will preſently know, ſaid I, the regard which I have for you. The Seliſtar intends to make you an offer of marriage, and I was ſo far from oppoſing that I was pleaſed with a deſign that may contribute to your happineſs. She received this propoſal with ſo much coldneſs, that I immediately gueſs'd at her answer. You are ſo far, ſaid ſhe, from making me happy, that you make me wretched by an offer
which

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which I can't refuse without greatly offending the Seliſtar. Cou'd I, ſaid ſhe, of all perſons in the world have expected ſuch an odious propoſition from you? You have not ſurely ſo much friendſhip for me as I imagined, or I have ſucceeded ill in my attempts to convince you of my inclinations.

Being greatly charmed with ſo obliging a reproach and too ſenſible of its ſeeming to favour my paſſion, I inſiſted on the Seliſtar's deſign merely for the pleaſure of making her repeat what I had heard with ſo much joy and admiration. But do you remember, ſaid I, that the Seliſtar is one of the firſt Lords of the Empire, that his riches are immenſe, that the offer which you hear with indifference would be joyfully accepted by any woman in the world, and that it

is

is to such as he that the sisters and daughters of the Grand Seignior are daily given? In short, do you consider that he has long adored you, that he esteems as well as loves you, and that he designs to treat you otherwise than the Turks generally do their wives? I think of none of these things, said she, because I want and desire nothing but to live peaceably under your protection. After the promises which I had made of not mentioning my passion, I did not dare to give a loose to the secret raptures of my heart; but they were greater than any I have hitherto described.

The Selictar did not fail to come in the evening to Oru. He asked me with great eagerness if I had broke the matter to Theofa. I cou'd not help telling him that I had given her
some

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some hints of it, which had not been received so favourably as he seem'd to wish. But you perhaps, added I, may be a more successful advocate, and I wou'd not advise you to delay your suit. There was a malicious joy in this counsel. I long'd to see an end of his importunities by a refusal which would deprive him of all hopes, and to enjoy my triumph and see my Rival humbled before my face. This was the only satisfaction which I had hitherto received from my passion, and I never indulged it with greater pleasure than now. I conducted the Seliſtar to Theofa's apartment, and he told her the occasion of his visit. Having had time to prepare her answer, she took care to say nothing that was harsh or mortifying; but her refusal was so peremptory, and the reasons which she urged for it so
strong

strong and convincing, that we both I dare say immediately passed the same judgment upon them. And he did not indeed desire to hear them repeated. He rose without making any reply, and going out along with me with an air of greater rage than grief; who cou'd have thought it, said he! Was it possible to expect this! He refused to stay all night, and added as he embraced me at taking his leave, let our friendship continue. I designed to have committed an extravagant action, but you must own that her folly surpasses mine. His rage continued even in his chariot; and I saw him lift up his hands and clap them together with a vehemence which was I thought as much owing to shame as to grief and amazement. Notwithstanding what I have said, I was forced to pity him,

or

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or at least to wish that so stinging a repulse might prove the means of his cure.

But I shou'd not perhaps have spared him so much compassion, had I foreseen the evils which hung over my own head, and that even his disgrace would chagrin and mortify me. As soon as he was gone I returned to Theofa's apartment, and found her highly satisfied with his departure. The natural chearfulness and vivacity of her temper inspired her with many agreeable reflections on the fortune she had refused; and as I cou'd not comprehend the principles of a woman who so heartily despised the things for which the generality of mankind have the highest esteem, I intreated her, after I had heard her for some time, to inform me what she aim'd at by a conduct and
senti-

sentiments which daily raised my admiration. One has always, said I looking upon her with a very pensive air, some end in view; and the more raised and noble it is, the more extraordinary must the ways be by which we endeavour to arrive at it. I have a very high opinion of yours, but can't however discover what it is. You must surely have a great confidence in me; why then have you thus long concealed your intentions, why don't you grant at least to friendship what I dare not ask from other motives? I spoke with sufficient seriousness to convince her that this question did not proceed from curiosity only; and how faithful soever I had been in the observance of all my promises, she had penetration enough continually to perceive that my heart was far from being more easy.

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easy. She protested, with the same gay and spritely air with which she had been speaking of the Seliſtar's retreat, that her only end was that which she had declared a thousand times already, and that she was greatly ſurprised at my forgetting it. Your friendship and generous protection, ſaid ſhe, have raiſed me above the wretchedneſs of my paſt life ; but regret and all my endeavours will never repair its irregularities. I am indifferent with regard to every thing which does not tend to make me wiſer, becauſe I think that nothing is good and valuable but wiſdom, and am daily more and more convinced that it is the only thing which I want.

Such answers as theſe would have made me apprehenſive that reading and ſtudy had turned her head, had

I not observed a wonderful evenness in her temper, a constant moderation in all her desires, and even the same allurements in her conversation and behaviour. I shou'd here begin to blush for my weakness, had I not given my Readers such an idea of its fair Author, as must, I persuade myself, dispose them to excuse it. I cou'd not reflect on so many wonderful circumstances, without being more sensible than ever of all the passions which I had as it were kept in awe and check'd for some months past, out of regard to my promises. The offers of such a man as the Seli-ctar, and the denial of which I was a witness, had so changed Theofa in my eyes, that she seem'd adorned with all the titles which she refused to accept. She was no longer a Slave I had redeem'd, an outcast whose fa-

ther refused to own her, and the miserable prostitute of a Seraglio; but a person adorned with every amiable perfection, ennobled by the grandeur she had despised, and worthy of a more exalted station than it was in the power of Fortune to give her. In this disposition, which reflections daily increased, I quickly resolved to marry her. And tho' I had not for near two years together dared to entertain such a thought for a moment; yet so far was I now from struggling against it, that I was anxious for nothing but how I might render my design successful.

My own imagination threw no difficulties in my way, since I found nothing there but what favour'd my passion; and my Relations were at too great a distance to oppose or even to hear of my design 'till a long while

while after the execution of it. Tho' I resolved to follow the inclinations of my heart, yet having some regard for decency, and being willing to avoid expence and noise, I propos'd to celebrate my nuptials in my own house. But in the midst of all my satisfaction, I wish'd that Theofa had seem'd to consent to gratify my wishes by tenderer motives than those which I design'd to propose, and I felt some regret at being under a necessity of taking this method to obtain a return of my fondness. I had often flatter'd myself with having made some impression on her heart, but my never having drawn any such confession from her gave me some disquiet. Tho' I did not hope to extort a plain declaration, yet I suppos'd by giving her a distant prospect and some dark hints of

what I design'd, that it wou'd be impossible for her in the secret and lively expressions of her gratitude not to let slip some words which might satisfy my delicacy, and give me an opportunity of declaring what my inclination prompted me to do for her happiness and mine. In all these reflections, it never once came into my head that her refusing the Seliſtar was a reason to make me apprehensive of the same fate; and I took a pleasure in persuading myself that if her rejecting one of the first fortunes of the Empire was not absolutely in order to reserve herself for me, that it was at least owing to a prepossession in favour of our Country, which wou'd the more dispose her to accept of my offers.

At last, after several days had past in this kind of preparation, I made
choice

choice for the decision of my happiness of an afternoon when nothing cou'd interrupt us. The moment I was in her apartment, a thought which all my reasonings had not made me recollect, chill'd my blood with horror, and made me return with as much grief and confusion as I had serenity and resolution when I went thither. I remember'd that the Seliſtar had taken some steps to induce Condoidi to own Theofa for his daughter, and was affrighted at the vehemence of a passion which made me less observant of decency than a Turk. But this was not the only thing which alarmed me. I consider'd that it was necessary to declare my intentions to Condoidi, in order to engage him to do for me what he had offer'd the Seliſtar, and that it wou'd be very irksome and mortify-

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ing to have my happiness depend on the caprice of a man whom I had treated with so little ceremony. What a fine case I shou'd be in, if he shou'd please himself with the thoughts of revenging upon me the importunities with which I had teized him in favour of his daughter, and the vexation which his son had given him, of which he suspected me to be the cause? But will the Reader believe that it was possible for me to determine, after so just a reproach, and long deliberation about the methods of retrieving my errors, to go back to Theofa, and immediately execute a design which I had such strong reasons for suspending? I will not pretend to boast of the arguments which made me resume this resolution; being persuaded that every one will think that they were dictated by
love

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love rather than prudence. I thought however that obstacles which I did not despair of surmounting, ought not to retard a declaration which would convince Theofa of all the ardor of my passion, and dispose her to favour, at least with her wishes, my design with regard to her father. And I proposed to tell her that she might depend upon having both an Husband and a Father in the same day. Shou'd I not blush to own that I thought she wou'd be influenced by my designs in her favour to return my passion, and sooner or later grant me without any conditions what she saw I was willing at any price to merit? I made several other reflections, but my ideas were not perhaps very clear. I returned into her apartment, and prevented her asking any questions concerning my confusion, by be-

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ginning to explain my designs ; and having desired her to hear me without interruption, I did not conclude before I had given her a very particular account of my sentiments.

The violence of my passion, which hurried me on to this strange declaration, did not only continue but even increased while I was making it ; and the presence of so beloved an object making deeper impressions than all my reflections, there was nothing equal to the strength of my love and desires. But a glance which I cast on Theofa, threw me into a thousand times greater disorder than that which I felt when I left her apartment an hour before. Instead of the signs of gratitude and joy which I expected to see in her face, I perceived the marks of the deepest sadness and dejection. She seem'd thoroughly

ly affected with what she had heard, but I too plainly saw that it was not transports of admiration and love but surprise and fear which render'd her speechless. At last, when I was going to express my uneasiness at seeing her in this situation, she threw herself on her knees, and shed a torrent of tears which deprived her for some time of the use of words. I was in such an agony of passion, that I had not strength to raise her. She continued in this posture, and constrained me to hear what pierced my very soul. I shall not repeat the hard and injurious things which the remembrance of her infamy, a subject which she never forgot, induced her to say of herself; but after she had represented herself in the most odious colours, she conjured me to look on the Picture, and no longer suffer my-

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self to be blinded by an unworthy passion. She reminded me of what I ow'd to my birth, to my rank, to honour and reason, of which I myself had given her the first ideas and so happily taught her the maxims. She accused fortune of rendering her compleatly wretched, by making her the means of not only ruining the peace of her benefactor and father, but also of corrupting the principles of an heart which was she pretended a perfect model of virtue. And dropping at last the voice of sorrow and complaints to assume that of the most resolute threats, she protested if I did not renounce desires which were equally repugnant to her duty and mine, if I did not confine myself to the titles of her Guardian and Friend; those dear and precious titles to which she implored Heaven to give me suitable

ble inclinations, that she was determined to quit my house without bidding me farewell, and to use the liberty, the life, all the blessings for which she own'd herself indebted to me, to fly for ever from my sight.

After this cruel protestation, she quitted the posture she was in; and intreating me in a calmer tone to pardon some disrespectful words which the violence of her grief had extorted from her, desired leave to retire to her closet to conceal her confusion and a little recover her strength and spirits; repeating at the same time her resolution of forsaking my house for ever when she returned from thence, unless she had the pleasure of finding me such as her happiness and mine required me to be.

I had not power to make the least attempt to prevent her retreat. My voice,

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voice, my reason, all my faculties lost their use thro' an excess of amazement and confusion. My tortures seem'd insupportable; and had some dreadful abyfs been open before me, I shou'd surely have plunged headlong down it. In this condition I remain'd for some time, without being able to stir from the place where I was. The first Domestic I met, being terrified at the strange alteration of my countenance, spread the alarm all over the house and drew the rest of my servants together, who in a great fright offer'd me such things as they thought necessary for the recovery of my health. Theofa herself, forgetting the resolution which she had made of not coming out of her closet, flew to my relief in great consternation. But her presence redoubling my pains, I pretended

pretended not to observe her ; and assuring my servants that they were alarmed without cause, made all the haste I cou'd to lock myself up in my chamber.

I past more than two hours alone in the bitterest reflections and most violent agonies ; but they brought me at length to the point from which I had stray'd. I was convinced that the heart of Theofa was impregnable, and that her virtues, whether natural or acquired by study and meditation, ought to be proposed as a pattern for her own sex and ours. This reflection quickly dispersed the remains of my confusion ; and being willing to make a merit of entering so readily into her views, I went to her closet, declared myself vanquished by her example, and promised to confine myself as long as she pleased
to

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to the title of the most faithful and warmest of her friends. My heart however struggled against this promise, and her presence was the strongest temptation to make me retract what I concluded a moment before to be just and necessary. If what is related in the sequel of these Memoirs shou'd not answer the noble proofs which she has hitherto given of her virtue, will not my Readers question my evidence, and suspect me to be blinded by jealousy, rather than suppose one so well grounded in the principles of virtue to do any thing to blemish a character, which has hitherto appeared so amiable and wonderful? Whatever they may think of the matter, I ask the question only to have an opportunity to tell them, that I shall be as sincere in my doubts and suspicions as I have been in
my

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my encomiums; and that I shall fairly relate matters of fact, and leave every one to judge as he pleases.

But the new treaty which I had made with Theofa was follow'd by a long calm, in which I had the pleasure of seeing her practice all her virtues. The Guide whom I had sent with Maria Rezati was returned, and this inconstant Sicilian had ill answer'd our expectation or that of her Lover. The Captain of the Ship in which she embarked for the Morea, fell violently in love with her, and prevail'd on her to acquaint him with her adventures and designs. By representing in lively colours the absurdity of her scheme of settling with the Knight in the Morea, and the inconveniences to which she would thereby infallibly expose herself for the rest of her life, he at last persuaded

suaded her to return to Sicily, where he doubted not but she would easily find means of being reconciled to her Relations. He flatter'd himself with being the greatest gainer in this affair, by a marriage to which he foresaw there wou'd be little opposition; and if I may credit a Domestic, he was indulged in all the pleasures of it before his arrival at Messina. He immediately made application to the father, who thought himself happy in finding a child to inherit his estate, and making it appear that he was an Italian of a good family, obtain'd Rezati's leave to marry his daughter before her return was publickly known; and this indeed was the most likely method to conceal her shame. She took the Guide which I had sent along with her to her father's, with

a view no doubt to convince him of the regard which I had for her, and thereby dispose him to give her a kinder reception. He set out from Messina soon after the celebration of their nuptials, and brought me a Letter from Lord Rezati, which contain'd very lively expressions of his gratitude.

Theofa also received one from Maria, and we both thought ourselves fairly rid of this affair. But being at Constantinople about six weeks after, I was informed by one of my servants who was just come from Oru, that the Knight arrived there the evening before, and that the news which Theofa had told him concerning his Mistress, had thrown him into a despair of which they apprehended the consequences. He desired

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fired me to excuse the liberty he had taken of going to my house, and to give him leave to stay there a few days. I sent him word that he was very welcome, and went to see him, as soon as I had dispatched my business, in order to hear what he designed to do. I found him in all the perturbation in which he was represented to be. He even accused me of being the author of his misfortunes by suffering his Mistress to depart, without informing him of it; but I cou'd easily pardon the reproaches which grief extorted from a Lover. The consolation and advice which I gave him, brought him however in a few days to a juster way of thinking. I made him confess that this step of his Mistress was the happiest she cou'd have taken both for himself and her,
and

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and inclined him to accept of my mediation to reconcile himself to his Family and Order.

Having in some measure recover'd his peace and serenity of mind, he acquainted us with all the particulars of his adventure with Synesius, of which his Letter had informed us only of the principal circumstances. They went together to Ragusa; and finding no difficulties with regard to the payment of the Bills of Exchange, had made preparations for executing the scheme of their intended Settlement in the Morea. He confess'd, tho' with some reluctance, that Synesius also was returned to Constantinople. Being informed by Maria Rezati's Letter, which they found at their return from Ragusa, that Theofa rejected their proposal, they were come in hopes of persuading her

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her to approve it ; and the Knight, retaining a grateful sense of my civilities, own'd that Synesius designed to make use of force in case gentle methods shou'd prove unsuccessful. I betray my friend, said he, but am perswaded that you will not make use of my confidence to my prejudice ; and I shou'd indeed have been inexcusable in concealing his design , since it wou'd then have been impossible for you to have prevented it. He added that if he engaged to assist Synesius, it was in expectation of finding his Mistress at my house, and of returning with her into the Morea, and thro' a desire which he had of giving her so agreeable a Companion as Theofa, who wou'd he thought soon be charmed with their company, and find more pleasure at Acade than she imagined. And not being ignorant
of

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of my endeavours to engage Condoi-di to own her, he persuaded himself that I shou'd not be offended at their forcing her as it were into a family to which I was so desirous of seeing her restored. But the scheme of their Settlement being intirely disconcerted by the departure of Maria Rezati, he advised me of Synesius's views, which cou'd not now he thought be so safe and advantageous to Theofa.

She was not present at this discovery, and I desired him not to acquaint her with it. As I was advised of Synesius's design, I cou'd easily frustrate it; and I concluded besides as he had lost the Knight's assistance, that he would hardly have courage enough to attempt to execute it. I desired however to be informed of the means which they designed to use.

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I had but few servants at Oru, and they proposed to fix upon a day when I shou'd be in the City. As they were both perfectly acquainted with my house, they flatter'd themselves that they shou'd easily get admittance, and be able to persuade my Domesticks, as Maria Rezati would readily join with them, that Theofa also, tho' she seem'd unwilling to depart, was sent away by my direction. I know not what might have been the event of so rash an undertaking; but I deliver'd myself from all kind of apprehension about it by sending Synesius word that I knew of his design, and that he shou'd be punished, if he did not immediately lay it aside, with much greater severity than he had been by his father. The Knight, who continued to love him, contributed all he cou'd to persuade him to
abandon

abandon his scheme. He cou'd not however cure him of a passion which made him guilty of several other extravagances.

How little are men to be depended upon ! This very Knight who was I thought reclaim'd from his errors, and who indeed continued all the time he was with me to merit my regard and esteem, fell at his return to Sicily into much less excusable disorders than those he had forsaken. My recommendations to the Grand Master of Malta and the Viceroy of Naples procured him a kinder reception than he cou'd have expected, and he appeared publickly again in his own Country, where his flight was look'd upon only as an error of youth. But he cou'd not avoid, or rather was weak enough to seek for an opportunity of seeing his Mistress.

Their

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Their flames broke out again with equal violence. It was hardly four months since his departure, when Theofa show'd me a Letter which she received from Constantinople, in which he informed her, after much circumlocution and many expressions of shame and fear, that he and his Mistress, not being able to live asunder, were returned thither, and had renounced their Country for ever. He own'd the excess of his folly; but tho' he made the violence of a passion which he cou'd not subdue an excuse for it, yet he was sensible, he said, that decency did not permit him to wait upon me without my leave, and he intreated Theofa to revive my kindness for him.

I did not hesitate a minute about what answer I shou'd make them. This case was so different from the first,

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first, and I was so little inclined to entertain a man who had violated a thousand duties in this new rape, that I dictated Theofa's Letter myself, and plainly told the Knight and his Mistress, that they were not to expect the least favour or protection from me. But their design in coming to Constantinople was to visit and prevail on Synesius to resume his former scheme, and the success of it did not at all depend upon me. As they were very desirous however of Theofa's company, and as the friendship in which they had lived with her made them imagine that she would be glad to go along with them, they rightly concluded that her answer had been dictated by me; and were so far from looking upon it as a denial, that they went both of them to Oru, as soon as they were assured of

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my being in the City. Theofa was greatly surpris'd at their visit, and told them plainly, as she knew my inclination, that she had not ask'd her own heart whether it desired to see them or not. She intreated them therefore to retire and not to make her run the risk of displeasing me; but they insisted so strenuously on her giving them liberty to acquaint her with their design, that she was forced, whether she wou'd or not, to be so complaisant as to hear their proposal.

Their scheme was laid, and the Knight's Letter to open a way to my house, was only the effect of a scruple of honour with regard to their new enterprize. Tho' I had never told him my thoughts of their design of settling in the Morea, and had been still farther from discover-
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ing how far I was concern'd in their endeavours to engage Theofa in it; yet he supposed that I shou'd not have treated her with so much respect and distinction if I had not been fond of her company, and that he cou'd not seduce or carry her away by force without offending me. He wish'd therefore to make me approve of a design which was so agreeable to his Friend and his Mistress; and did not despair of doing it tho' I had refused to see him, provided he cou'd obtain Theofa's consent. To this end he display'd all the advantages and pleasure which she wou'd have in their society; but she did not want persuasions to resist his importunities.

I was at that time very busy in making preparations for a Festival which made a great noise over all Europe. The difficulties which I had often met

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with in the execution of my Office, had not hinder'd me from always living upon very good terms with the Grand Visir Calaili ; and I dare say that my resolution in maintaining the honour of my Country, and my priviledges as an Embassador, made me the more respected by the Turks. The King's Birth-day being at hand, I resolved to celebrate it with more pomp than it ever had been before. The illuminations were to be very magnificent, and my house at Constantino-ple, which was in the suburb of Galata, was already provided with the Guns of all the French Ships in the Port. As such extraordinary rejoicings cou'd not be made without leave, the Grand Visir had with great politeness given me an exprefs permission for them. But going to Oru the evening before the Festival, greatly
satisfied

satisfied with my preparations, in order to divert myself after my fatigue and to bring Theofa to be present at it the next day, I heard two pieces of news which interrupted my joy. One on my arrival : and this was an account of the Knight's visit, and the efforts which he had made to engage Theofa to follow him. Hearing at the same time that he was more intimate than ever with Synesius, I carried my suspicions farther than she, and did not doubt upon her refusal and mine, but that they wou'd resume the designs which the Knight himself had confess'd they formerly had. I was however the less alarmed at them as I intended to conduct her to Constantinople the next day, and shou'd there have leisure to think of methods to make my house at Oru a safe asylum.

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But as we were reflecting in the evening upon all the circumstances of this visit, I received advice from my Secretary that the Grand Visir Calaili was deposed, and that he was succeeded by Choruli, a man with whom I had no friendship and of an haughty character. I presently perceived the perplexity I shou'd be in. This new Minister might prohibit the celebration of my Festival, were it only out of mere caprice which generally inclines such as he to make alterations, and to revoke all the permissions which have been granted by their predecessors. My first thought was to pretend ignorance of the change, and to execute the scheme I had laid by virtue of Calaili's *Fervan*. Some disputes, however, which I had got out of with honour, obliging me to be circumspect in my conduct, I resolved

resolved at last to ask the new Visir's leave, and sent a messenger to him for that purpose. He was so engaged during the first hurry of his elevation, that it was impossible for my Secretary to procure a moment's audience, of which I was not informed 'till the next day. I was very impatient, and resolved to go to him myself. He was in the *Galike Divan*, and was to stay there 'till he appeared in the solemn Procession which is usual on such changes. It was therefore impossible for me to see him. But my preparations being all made, I resumed my first thought of satisfying myself with Calaili's permission, and began my illuminations as soon as it was dark.

The Visir being informed of the affair, was in a great passion about it, and immediately sent one of his

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Officers to ask what I meant, and by what authority I acted in this manner without his knowledge. I answer'd in a civil manner, that I did not think myself under a necessity of obtaining a new Fervan, as Calaili had granted me one two days since; but that I had however not only sent but been at the Visir's myself to request a renewal of it. The Officer, who had instructions how to behave, told me that it was the Visir's pleasure that I shou'd instantly put a stop to my rejoicings, and that I shou'd be compell'd by force unless I consented to do it immediately. I was greatly nettled at this menace, and made a very angry reply; and when the Officer, being provoked in his turn, added that a detachment of Janissaries were already order'd, in case I made the least resistance, to advance
and

and humble my pride, I lost all patience and was enraged beyond measure. Tell your Master, said I, that his conduct deserves the last contempt, that I am incapable of fear when the honour of my King is concerned, and am resolved if he comes to the extremities with which you presume to threaten me, not to pretend to defend myself against Enemies who would soon overpower me with their numbers, but to collect together in this Hall all my gun-powder of which I have a great quantity, to put a match to it with my own hands, and blow up all at once, my house, my Guests and myself; leaving to my Master the care of revenging my death.

The Officer retired; but the noise of this affair presently alarmed all the French who were assembled at my house on this occasion. I myself was

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in such a violent rage as would to be sure have render'd me capable of executing my project; and being resolved not to betray the least signs of fear, I immediately order'd a general discharge of my artillery, which consisted of fifty pieces of canon. My servants trembled as they obey'd me. And my Secretary being more terrified than the rest, thought he did me a good office by putting out some of the lights, that he might be able to say that we were then actually obeying the Visir's command. I did not immediately perceive his caution; but the flight of some of my Guests, who without doubt apprehended that I shou'd come to the extremities with which I threaten'd the Visir's Messenger, increased my fury. I treated as cowards and traytors all those whom I cou'd not prevail on to stay;
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and observing the diminution of my illuminations, was in a new rage at the timorous precaution of my Secretary. This was my situation when I heard the cries of a woman who call'd me to her assistance. I did not doubt but that a detachment of Janissaries had already begun to insult my servants, and being unwilling to attempt any thing at an uncertainty, I ran, accompanied by some faithful friends, to the part from whence the shrieks came. But what did I see! Synesius and the Knight, assisted by two Greeks, were carrying away Theofa by force, and endeavouring to drown her cries by stopping her mouth with an handkerchief. I did not want all the passion with which I was agitated, to fill up the measure of my fury. Dispatch the traitors, said I to my Companions, and
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was but too well obey'd. They fell upon the four Ravishers, who defended themselves as well as they cou'd. The two Greeks, having less skill or resolution, were presently kill'd. The Knight was wounded, and Synesius, despairing of victory, surrender'd his sword. I shou'd perhaps have detain'd and treated him in the first transports of my rage with great severity, had I not been informed that the Visir, being appeased by the signs of submission for which he was indebted to my Secretary, had countermanded his troops and declared that he was satisfied. Pity easily found a place in my heart as soon as rage had forsook it. I was besides obliged to take some precautions to conceal the death of the two Greeks. I dismiss'd Synesius, telling him how much he was obliged to me
for

for my lenity, and order'd the Knight's wounds to be carefully healed. As I luckily happen'd to have none but Christians in my house, every one thought himself concern'd to conceal this affair.

This incident was follow'd by several others, which have no relation to this Work but as they were the occasion of my leaving Constantinople. As soon as I received his Majesty's command to return to France, I consider'd how I shou'd behave with regard to Theofa. I loved her too well to be in any doubt about making her an offer to go along with me; but I was not sure of her consent. My perplexity therefore arising only from my not knowing her inclinations, I endeavour'd by some obscure hints to find what they were. She soon put me out of my pain by seeming

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ing to question whether I wou'd permit her to bear me company. I rose in a transport of joy, told her that she shou'd always find me the same I had hitherto been, and gave her full liberty to impose upon me any conditions she pleased. All I desire, said she with a very obliging air, is the continuance of your friendship which includes every other blessing, and to be indulged in the liberty of living with you as I have always hitherto done. I solemnly promised to grant her request. But I prevail'd on her to give me leave once again to attack the insensible Condoidi. She foresaw that my endeavours wou'd be to no purpose. And indeed tho' I flatter'd myself that he wou'd be more pliable when he saw that she was going to quit Turkey, yet was I so far from making any impression on this obdurate

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rate old Gentleman, that he supposed, on the contrary, that the story of her departure was only an artifice to impose upon him. I had not seen Synesius or the Knight since their rash attempt. The former, surmounting all his fears as soon as he heard that Theofa was to accompany me to France, came and intreated me to permit him at least to take leave of his sister. This name which the wily Greek affected to give her, and the air of fondness which appeared in his request, determined me not only to suffer him to see her immediately, but also to grant him the same favour several other times before our departure. The precaution which I had taken both in the Town and Country left me nothing to fear with regard to her safety, and I knew Theofa too well to suspect her. This indul-

indulgence however inspired Synesius with new hopes. He had seen her but two or three times, when desiring leave to speak with me, he threw himself at my feet, to conjure me to resume my former good opinion of him; and calling Heaven to witness that he wou'd as long as he lived look upon Theofa as his sister, he earnestly intreated me to take him along with me, and to be a father to him as well as to her. His prayers, his tears, and the esteem which I always had for him, wou'd infallibly have inclined me to have granted his request, cou'd I have persuaded myself that love did not lie in disguise under the false appearances of fraternal affection. I made him, however, no direct answer; being willing to consult Theofa, who might I supposed be apprized of the affair,

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and have been moved perhaps by his tears and her affection for him as a brother. She told me without hesitation, that she shou'd desire this favour of me, were she certain that she was his sister ; but that she now intreated me not to expose her to the perpetual uneasiness of not knowing how to behave to a youth who discover'd too passionate a regard for her, if he was not her brother. Thus was the sorrowful Synesius reduced to the consolations which he undoubtedly found in the friendship of the Knight, and I know nothing more of their History.

Some weeks which past between the time of my receiving the King's commands and my departure, were spent by Theofa in affairs which wou'd furnish me with materials for a Volume, were I desirous to swell these

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these Memoirs. Reflection and her own experience had taught her, that slavery was to one of her sex the most dreadful of all calamities; and since she had been at Oru, she had lost no opportunity of informing herself what Seraglioes were best furnished, and what Lords were most greedy of such kind of riches. By the help of some Slave Merchants, who are as well known at Constantinople as the most celebrated Pimps in Paris, she had found out several miserable wretches, who had involuntarily fallen into these unhappy circumstances; and had always flatter'd herself with the hopes that she shou'd one time or other have it in her power to procure their liberty. She knew that I cou'd not always be asking such kind of favours, and her prudence hinder'd her from too frequently desiring me
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to employ my revenue in such purposes; but as she was now just going to leave this part of the world, she was the less scrupulous. She began by selling all the jewels which Cheriber had given her, and some considerable presents which I had forced her to accept of. After she had confess'd that she had converted them into money, and told me the use which she designed to make of it, she intreated me to be so charitable as to make some addition to it out of my superfluity. I gave her ten thousand livres, with which I designed to have purchased several Curiosities. I never knew how much of her own money Theofa added to this, but I presently saw several very beautiful girls, whose freedom must have cost her very considerable sums; and if the expence of
sending

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sending them into their own Country be added to the price of their redemption, it can't be doubted but that her liberality greatly exceeded mine. I amused myself for several days with hearing the adventures of this charming Troop, and took care to commit them to writing, that I might have nothing to apprehend from the treachery of my memory.

We embark'd at last on board a Ship which was bound to Marfeilles. The Captain informed me, that he was under a necessity of staying some weeks at Leghorn, and I was glad of an opportunity of seeing so celebrated a Port. Theofa shou'd several signs of joy as she landed on the Italian shore. A thousand reasons obliging me to be *incognito*, I left my attendants on board, and lodged at a public Inn, where I did not refuse to
dine

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dine at an ordinary with several Travellers who happen'd to be there. Theofa pass'd for my daughter, and I for a Gentleman who was returning from Constantinople with my family. As we were at dinner, I observed that a young Frenchman was very attentive to the charms of Theofa, and that he did all he cou'd to make her take notice of him. His person and behaviour were both very engaging, and the air of his conversation made me take him for a man of Quality, tho' I did not remember the name of Count de M. Q. which was that which he went by. He loaded me with civilities, because he supposed me to be the father of Theofa. I saw nothing at first in his behaviour but the gallantry which is common to the French. I walk'd several times up and down the City without

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without so much as mistrusting that I run any risk in leaving Theofa behind, with only one of her own Countrywomen to attend her.

In about eight days, however, I perceived some alteration in her temper. But as the fatigue of the voyage might occasion it, this observation gave me but little concern. I asked her, however, if she had any cause of grief or complaint. She told me that she had nothing to make her uneasy; but then she said this with so much confusion, that I shou'd immediately have open'd my eyes, had I been capable of suspecting her. Besides, I did not know that the Count de M was constantly with her all the time which I employ'd in seeing the curiosities of the City. We were a fortnight at Leghorn before I was warn'd
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by any accident to have a more watchful eye upon what was doing around me. If I returned before dinner time I found Theofa alone, the Count always taking care to retire. I observed that she grew more and more reserved and melancholy; but seeing no other sign of any alteration in her health, I thought I shou'd dispel these gloomy appearances, by assuring her that she would find more pleasure in France than at an Italian Inn.

It is certain, as we were at table, that I observed her more familiar with the Count than I cou'd have expected from so short an acquaintance. Their looks and their smiles seem'd intelligible to each other, and the civilities of the Count were received with another air than they were at first. But as nothing less than a miracle

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racle cou'd make me suspicious of Theofa after such long trials of her virtue and even of her insensibility, I found a thousand reasons to excuse her behaviour. She had taste enough to perceive in the noble manners of the Count the great difference between French and Turkish politeness, and she studied him as a model. These excuses which I made for her were so much the more probable, as I had a thousand times observed her to copy after me ; and tho' I was not so finish'd a pattern as the Count, yet had she in a great measure catch'd our manners by imitating mine. I was still eight days longer without having the least jealousy, and am at a loss to know what would have been the end of their secret correspondence, if chance had not one day brought me home sooner than I was expected.

expected. I went directly to Theofa's chamber, and saw the Count on his knees. The sight of a Serpent which had stung me, cou'd not have terrified me more. I had, however, command enough of myself to retire without being perceived. But being detain'd at the door, whether I wou'd or not, by my fears and jealousy, I endeavour'd to heighten the despair which was already gnawing my heart, by observing every thing which might discover Theofa to be still more guilty. I saw nothing, however, which was repugnant to modesty, tho' I continued in my post 'till dinner time, as impatient as if I had wished to see or hear something of which I had the most deadly apprehension.

What reason had I to be jealous? What engagement had Theofa with

me, or what hopes had she given me? Had I not, on the contrary, renounced all pretensions to her heart, and was not the liberty of following her own inclinations one of the articles to which I had agreed? I was forced to own that it was. But I thought it cruel that an heart on which I cou'd make no impressiion, shou'd so easily receive it from another. Supposing her capable of the weakness of love, I shou'd have wish'd that she had not yielded as it were by chance, and at the first glance of a Stranger. Or to discover the bottom of my heart, I was vexed that those appearances of virtue which I had so much revered, shou'd so quickly vanish and come to nothing. I even blush'd at having been duped by the fine maxims which I had so often heard her repeat, and reproached

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reproached myself less with the services I had done her, than with my credulity and folly.

There was as much malice as anguish and confusion in these reflections. I was so far from giving a favourable turn to the modest behaviour of the Count, that I look'd upon him as a contented Lover, whose moderation was owing to his having been indulged in all his desires. What new tortures did this thought inflict upon me! But I had command enough of my actions not to make any rash attempt. As I had formed a design of surprising the cruel Theofa in the midst of her pleasures, I was desirous of talking with her Woman, not to tell her what I had observed but to see what farther discoveries her simplicity might give me an opportunity of making. She was

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a Greek who succeeded Bema, and enter'd voluntarily into my service. But whether she was more attached to her Mistress than to me, or whether she herself was deceived by the dexterity of the Count and Theofa, I learnt nothing from her but their frequent interviews, which she did not seem to endeavour to conceal.

I resolved not to go abroad any more, and pretending that I was detain'd at home by illness, wou'd not suffer Theofa to go out of my sight all the rest of the day. The Count sent to ask leave to visit us in the afternoon. I was so far from opposing it, that I was glad of an opportunity to make observations, of which his words and actions were the only subject for upwards of four hours together. He was not so imprudent as to betray himself; but I perceived
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with what art he was perpetually turning the conversation upon every thing, which might increase the inclination which I supposed Theofa had for him. He entertain'd us with some of his amours, in which love and constancy were always the virtues by which he had signalized himself. He had been in love with a Roman Lady, whose heart had held out against all his attacks for some time; but who surrender'd herself without reserve, and set no bounds to her fondness, as soon as she was thoroughly acquainted with him and his character. This adventure had detain'd him two years in Italy, and wou'd have made him renounce his Country for ever, had not the most dreadful of all calamities broken such agreeable fetters. After they had long quietly indulged themselves in

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all the pleasures of love, the Husband of his Mistress perceiving their familiarity, caused them both to swallow poison, which was fatal to the young Lady, and wou'd have been so to him, had he not been blessed with a very uncommon strength of constitution. As soon as he was got well again, he heard of the death of the dear object of his passion, which caused him to relapse, thro' an excess of grief, into a more dangerous condition than that from which he was recover'd. As this disease however had no more effect than the poison, he was in the utmost despair, and endeavour'd to procure his death by a less criminal tho' he supposed by no less certain a method, than that of falling by his own hands. He presented himself to the Husband whose hatred he had justly deserved, and having reproach-

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ed him a thousand times with his barbarity, open'd his bosom and desired him to satiate his revenge, by plunging his dagger in his heart. He called Heaven to witness that he thought his death infallible, and that he shou'd have submitted to it with pleasure. But the cruel Husband, making a jest of his rage and despair, replied that he shou'd no longer think of effecting his death, since he had the pleasure to see that he shou'd be more effectually revenged by suffering him to live, and that he was heartily glad that he had escaped the poison which wou'd too soon have put an end to his torments. He had ever since lead a most deplorable life, wandering all over Italy from one City to another, in hopes of effacing impressions which were one perpetual torture, and of repairing the loss he had sustain'd by

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the conversation of all the amiable women he found. But he was arrived at Leghorn, without having ever felt the least alteration in his heart, which grief had hitherto guarded against all attacks of love.

This was plainly saying, that this miracle was reserved for Theofa. I had observed, however, none of the profound melancholy, which must have been very visible at the time of our arrival, had that been the true date of his cure. But the eagerness with which Theofa listen'd to all these fables, did not permit me to doubt of their making upon her all the impression he desired. I expected the night with the utmost impatience, in order to clear up some much more terrible doubts. Theofa's chamber was next to mine. I rose as soon as my Valet de Chambre had quitted my room,
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and look'd for a place from whence I might see every thing which approach'd our apartment.

I felt, however, some remorse for the injury I was doing the amiable Theofa; and a thousand passions pleading her cause, I ask'd my own heart if its black suspicions had a sufficient foundation to authorise such unfair observations. The whole night passed without giving me any just grounds of offence. I went several times to her door, and listen'd with great attention. The least noise awaken'd my suspicions, and imagining I heard some body move, I was strongly tempted to knock furiously at her door, and demand admittance. At last, when the sun was rising and I was going to retire, I heard Theofa's door open. A sudden ague chill'd my blood: 'Twas

she herself going out with her Woman. This early rising gave me fresh uneasiness ; but I remember'd her having told me that she frequently went, as the weather was excessively hot, to take the air in the Garden which look'd upon the Sea. I watch'd her, and was not satisfied 'till I saw her go that way.

The Reader will think that I ought to be satisfied with the trouble which I had given myself in the night, and that I had nothing more to do but to refresh myself with sleep, which I greatly wanted. But my heart was only half at rest. The noise which I had heard in her chamber left some doubts behind. The key was left in the door, and I went into her room in hopes of discovering what it was that had alarmed me. It was perhaps a chair or a curtain, which The-
ofa

ofa herself had moved. But examining every part of her chamber with a very inquisitive eye, I observed a little door belonging to a private stair-case, which I had never seen before. All my passions immediately broke loose, and raged with greater fury than ever. This is the way which the Count uses, cried I with a heart full of anguish. This is the source of my shame and thy guilt, perfidious, unhappy Theofa! I can give but a very faint idea of the eagerness with which I examined these stairs, which went down into a bye Court. The door, however, at the foot of them was very carefully fasten'd. But cou'd it not have been open'd in the night? If I had any certain proofs to expect, I shou'd I thought as Theofa's bed was not yet made, find them there. I approach-
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ed it with fear and trembling, as if I was upon the brink of discoveries which wou'd afford me the clearest conviction. I carefully attended even to the minutest circumstances, with regard to the form and position of the bed and bed-cloaths ; and even went so far as to measure out a space which was sufficient to hold Theofa, and to see if nothing was disorder'd beyond the limits which I allotted her.

As the season was very hot, I made all reasonable allowances for her kicking and tumbling a little beyond her bounds, and found all the dimensions answer so very exactly, that I had all the reason in the world to be satisfied. These enquiries, which lasted a long while, occasion'd the tempest in my bosom to subside by degrees, and produced an effect which

I was far from foreseeing. The sight of the place in which the dear Theofa had so lately rested, her form which I saw imprinted there, and some remains of warmth, melted me into such a fit of fondness, that I kiss'd a thousand times the pillow on which she had reposed her head. As I was fatigued with watching all night, and sooth'd by this amorous indulgence, my senses soon forgot their office, and I fell fast asleep on her bed.

She was all this while in the Garden, where it was no wonder that she shou'd meet the Count, since it was an established custom of the house, to go and take the air of the Sea before the heat of the day came on. Several persons of the neighbourhood also came thither for the sake of the walk, which gave it the appearance of a public one. The
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Captain of a French Ship which came into the Port the night before, and several Passengers whom he brought from Naples, happen'd to be there the same day. The sight of Theofa, whom it was hard to see without admiration, drew these Strangers about her; and the Count perceiving the Captain to be a Frenchman, fell into a conversation with him. From him he learn'd not only what related to his own affairs, but some particulars concerning mine; viz. that the Captain, who had seen our ship as he enter'd the Port, was informed by the Sailors who were on the deck, from whence they came and what Passengers they had. These fellows, to whom I had not enjoin'd secrecy when I went on shore, told him my Office at Constantinople, and by that means discover'd me. The Count
hearing

hearing me spoken of under this title, was extremely surpris'd at his not knowing that I was at Leghorn, tho' it appeared by the Captain's discourse that I had been there several days. But reflecting a little on the affair, he concluded that I was the person whom the Captain mention'd, and that I desired for some reason or other to remain unknown. When he look'd upon Theofa, he was in some confusion, supposing that he had not treated her with all the respect which was due to my daughter. What he heard made him immediately form a design which he had never so much as thought of before, and this was to marry Theofa in case I was her father. This circumstance alone has always been sufficient to convince me of his noble birth. His scheme, which he endeavour'd to persuade her

to approve of before they went out of the Garden, made their walk longer than usual. The morning therefore was far advanced, when he gave her his hand to conduct her back to her apartment.

Theofa heard his proposal with all imaginable confusion; and as she immediately supposed that it was owing to his false notion of her birth, she opposed it by arguments which he did not well understand. But not being at all shaken in his resolution by any thing she said, he declared as he was coming into her chamber, that he would not suffer the day to pass, without acquainting me with his sentiments. And if any thing gave me a favourable opinion of their familiarity, it was the readiness with which he broke it off after the scene which I am going to represent, and
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his sincere desire and intention of marriage. I was still in the position in which I was arrested by sleep; dress'd in my night-gown indeed, but then I was in Theofa's bed. I was awaked by the noise which they made in opening the door, and heard the last words of the Count. Notwithstanding the confusion I was in at being surpris'd, I shou'd have endeavour'd not to have discover'd myself, and to have taken the advantage of my situation to have heard the remainder of their discourse; had not the curtains been open, and the Count immediately seen me. Ha! who is there, said he, in the utmost surprise? Theofa also perceived me, and gave a very loud shriek. It was in vain to pretend to steal away. The only remedy I had, was to endeavour to assume an air of pleasantry, and

and to laugh at an incident to which I cou'd give no better a turn. I found your door open, said I to Theofa, and not being able to get any rest all the night long, imagined that your bed was more favourable to sleep than mine. The scream which she had given at first was owing to shame and confusion; but not being able to account for an action which was so inconsistent with the terms on which we lived together, she now express'd her doubts and concern by her silence. The Count on the other hand, who thought he at once comprehended what he had not so much as suspected before, made excuses for an indiscretion with which he reproached himself as a crime; and assuring me that he had too great a respect for me to interrupt my pleasures, took his leave in terms by which

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which I easily perceived that he knew who I was.

I was left alone with Theofa; and found it impossible, notwithstanding all my efforts, to maintain the chearful air which I had affected to assume, especially as my uneasiness was increased by hers. I saw no way to set matters right between us, but by making a frank confession of the suspicions which I had of her conduct. And I was the rather tempted to do this, because the promises which the Count made as he came into the room, were a new subject of complaint, which I was very desirous to hear her explain. Tho' she blushed very much at seeing me on her bed, yet she turn'd quite pale as soon as she heard my reproaches. She interrupted me however with a trembling air, to assure me that I wrong'd her by my suspicions

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cions, and that nothing had passed between her and the Count which was in the least repugnant to her avowed principles. So peremptory a denial heighten'd my resentment even to indignation. How! Traytress, said I, as if I had a right to reproach her, did I not see the Count at your feet? Have you not treated him, since our stay in this City, in a more kind and obliging manner than you ever condescended to treat me? Did he not this minute promise to try all methods to secure the happiness of being yours? What did he mean by this? Tell me, for I will know even from your own mouth. I will not all my life long be the sport of an ungrateful Fair, who constantly requites all my favours and fondness with cruelty and hatred.

These

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These hard names are a sufficient demonstration of the violence of my passion ; since she had never before heard any thing from me but protestations of love and esteem, or tender complaints, which convinced her of my respect even when my pains reproached her. She was accordingly in the utmost consternation at this kind of treatment ; and shedding a flood of tears, desired me to hear what she had to say in her defence. I forced her to sit ; but the anguish of my heart prevailing over the pity with which her sorrows inspired me, I abated nothing of the severity of my voice and looks.

After having again protested that she had granted the Count nothing for which she had any reason to reproach herself, she owned that he was in love with her, and that she
found

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found herself, by an alteration which she cou'd not account for, strangely prepossess'd in his favour. It is true, continued she, that I have struggled less against my inclination for him than might perhaps have been expected, considering the maxims upon which I have hitherto acted; but the reason of this conduct, if I may venture to declare it, was because I flatter'd myself, as he knows nothing of my shame, that I shou'd appear, and be indeed the same, to him as a woman who never swerved from the paths of honour and virtue. He generally resides, he says, in the Country, which is another reason for supposing that he will never hear of my misfortunes: And as he took you for a Merchant, I hope I did him no injury in suffering him to think that I was your daughter. But added she,

as

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as he was this morning informed of your rank, and was therefore determined to ask your consent to marry me; I must own that some scruples arose in my mind, which I shou'd immediately have communicated to you. Thus have I laid my heart open to your inspection. And tho' you might see him on his knees, yet I did not approve of that posture, nor ever encouraged him by any criminal compliances to take any such liberties.

She seem'd more confident after this declaration; and as if she supposed that I shou'd approve of her conduct, look'd upon me with an air of greater tranquillity. But the opinion which she had of her innocence, was the very thing which caused my despair. I was horribly provoked at her seeming not to trouble herself
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in the least with my passion or any apprehensions about making me uneasy, and that she shou'd deliver herself up without any resistance to a new amour. But shame made me conceal the bitter anguish of my heart, and act, as far as I was able, with prudence and temper. I am willing, said I, to believe your protestations, and can not easily persuade myself that you have deceived me by false appearances of virtue; but if the Count has been told who I am, how can you hope that he will take you for my daughter, since he knows, or will soon know, that I was never married? If he knows it already, you have too much sense not to perceive that his intentions can't be sincere, and that he only means to amuse himself with and deceive you. If he is ignorant of it, and his pre-
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sent mistake inclines him to marry you as my daughter, will not his design vanish as soon as he hears that I am not your father? But you know this full well, continued I, giving way to the jealousy which prey'd on my heart; you are not so silly as to believe that a man of *Quality* wou'd marry he knows not whom. He hit your fancy, you consulted your inclinations only, and they perhaps have carried you much greater lengths than you dare confess. What brought me hither, added I, but the discovery of your intrigue? I read your passion in your eyes, your words, your actions, in every circumstance of your conduct. I longed to surprise and overwhelm you with shame, and shou'd have done it last night, had I not been withheld by my fondness, which prompted me to treat you with

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respect and lenity. But be assured that I saw all, heard all, and that nobody less fond and foolish than I still am, wou'd show so little disdain and resentment.

It is easy to perceive the drift of this discourse. Wanting to get intirely rid of my doubts, I pretended to be fully informed of all the grounds of my fears, in order to induce her to confess them. Her answers, however, were so clear and positive, and the marks of her grief so artless, that I shou'd not have retain'd the least suspicion of her sincerity, cou'd one safely depend on the defence of a woman whose wit is equal to her love. But it is not here that I submit my cause to the judgment of my Readers, having other accusations to bring against the ungrateful Fair.

We

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We spent all the rest of the morning in discussions which afforded me no farther light as to this matter. Being at last informed that dinner was ready, I was very impatient to see how the two Lovers wou'd behave in my presence, and to hear what compliments I shou'd receive from the Count. Theofa's confusion was undoubtedly equal to my impatience. But the Count not appearing at table, I was informed by the company that he had taken his leave of every body, and was an hour or two since gone in away a Post Chaise. Tho' I was greatly surpris'd at this piece of news, yet I made no reflections on his departure; and turning my eyes upon Theofa, perceived that she did herself the utmost violence not to betray her uneasiness. She retired to her chamber as soon as dinner was

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over; and I shou'd immediately have follow'd her, had I not been detain'd by the French Captain whom I mention'd before. He was at first prudent enough not to take any notice who I was; but as soon as I rose from table, he came and made me the compliments which he thought were my due. I did not then know by what means he had discover'd my name. From his discourse, however, I soon learned not only what pass'd in the Garden, but the reasons also of the Count's flight. The Captain seem'd apprehensive of having offended me, and made his excuses. Knowing nothing, said he, of the character under which you caused the young Lady who is with you to appear in this City, I readily answer'd all the Count's questions. He mention'd your daughter; and tho' I had
not

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not the honour of knowing your person, yet as I, as well as all France, knew that you never was married, I was imprudent enough to tell him that you had none. He made me repeat this answer several times, and I perceived by some circumstances that my indiscretion may have disconcerted your measures.

I assured the Captain that he had given me no cause of complaint, and that I meant nothing but to avoid the trouble of ceremony by disguising my name, or by any other mask which I had worn at Leghorn: And this I said was the only reason of my desiring to continue in my present obscurity. I easily perceived the Count when he found that Theofa was not my daughter, took her for my Mistress. The circumstances in which he surpris'd me in her chamber, put

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this thought in his head ; and he concluded that the best method to extricate himself from his engagements, was to go away without seeing her. I hurried back to Theofa's chamber, and had only a glimpse of her heaviness and sorrows ; for she endeavour'd the moment she saw me to assume a pleasant countenance, and asked me with a smile, if I was not surpris'd at the hasty resolution of the Count. You see, added she, that his passion was not very violent, since he was so much master of it as to depart without so much as bidding me farewell. Pretending not to see thro' her counterfeited joy, he loved you without any great transport, said I very gravely ; and if this is the most ardent proof of his passion, it will hardly make him forget his Roman Lady. Our conversation, which last-
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ed all the afternoon, was one continued disguise ; Theofa always affecting to seem very little concerned at her loss, whilst I out of a malicious pleasure, which proceeded no doubt from the hopes which revived in my heart, continued to degrade the Count's passion, and to speak of his departure as the grossest rudeness and insult. The Captain of the Ship in which I came, telling me in the evening that he was disposed to sail whenever I pleased, I desired only the next day to get myself ready. It was not business but a regard to Theofa, which made me wish to stay a day longer ; for as I too plainly saw her efforts to hide her uneasiness, I was willing to see whether it wou'd not affect her health.

She supported herself pretty well 'till we went on board ; but as soon

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as she had lost all hopes of ever seeing the Count again, she was no longer able to resist the motions of her heart, but took to her bed, and never rose from it 'till we landed at Marseilles. I was as careful and tender of her as I shou'd have been of the dearest child or the most passionate Mistress. But I cou'd not see her in this languishing condition for another, without finding by experience that cruelty and ingratitude will damp and extinguish the warmest passions. I perceived my heart insensibly recovering its freedom; and tho' my desires of serving and making Theofa happy continued, yet did I no longer feel the violent emotions with which I had for several years been almost continually shaken. I had leisure to observe the several gradations of this change, during a calm which

which detain'd us eight days in the Gulf of Genoa. There is no instance of so perfect a stillness of the air and waters. We were hardly fix leagues from land, and the surface of the Sea being so intirely motionless that we seem'd rooted as it were in the same place, I thought several times of getting into the long-boat with Theofa and some of my attendants, in order to row to the shore. This wou'd have saved me from a terrible alarm which I was under from some miscreants, who resolved to make themselves masters of the Ship by the murder of the Captain and the Lieutenant. They had perhaps enter'd into this conspiracy before we sailed from Leghorn, but never found so fair an opportunity to execute it. We had on board, besides me and my retinue, five Italian and three French

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Passengers, whose appearance and behaviour were no temptation to me or the Captain to enter into the least familiarity with them. They conversed with no body but the Sailors, with whom they were continually tippling; and it was in one of these drinking bouts that they determined to dispatch the Captain and Lieutenant, supposing that they shou'd meet with little resistance from the rest of the crew, whose number was very small. Their design, with regard to me and my Attendants, was to set us on shore in some bye part of the isle of Corsica, and to seize all my effects. By an extraordinary watchfulness of Providence my Valet de Chambre slept one night on the Deck, and was awaken'd by the discourse of these villains, who being met together to regulate the execution.

tion of their design, were casting the principal parts of it, and already dividing their authority and booty. As it was the Captain's custom to appear every evening on the Quarter Deck, they resolved to dispatch him there; and two of their Accomplices were at the same time to knock at the Lieutenant's Cabbin, and to cut his throat as soon as he open'd his door. The rest were to be distributed in several parts of the Ship, and to terrify every body by their threats and arms. Tho' they agreed to treat me and my retinue with some respect and to land us in the isle of Corsica, yet one of them proposed to keep Theofa as the most valuable part of their prize; but after some deliberations on this matter, they perceived that so beautiful a woman would only sow divisions amongst them, and therefore

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fore concluded to set her on shore also.

Tho' my Valet de Chambre was terribly frighten'd at this discovery, yet he had presence of mind enough to perceive that our safety depended on diligence and secrecy. It was about midnight. And as Heaven was propitious to us, he made a shift to crawl along the Deck and to get to the Captain's apartment, which luckily join'd to mine, without being discover'd. He awaked us in the same cautious manner, and exhorting us to silence, gave a fearful relation of the dangers with which we were threaten'd. The darkness of the night had hinder'd his knowing all the Conspirators, or being certain as to their number. Having however distinguished the most mutinous by their voices, he named some, and
said.

said that there might perhaps be about twelve in all. As there are many known instances of my intrepidity, I shou'd not be justly chargeable with vanity, were I to boast of it on this occasion. Eight Domesticks whom I had with me, the Captain, the Lieutenant and myself were capable of making some defence. There were besides several Mariners of whose fidelity we had no suspicion, and other Passengers who were as much concern'd as ourselves to repel the insults of a band of Pyrates. Our only difficulty being to assemble our forces, I took this task upon myself. I order'd several flambeaux to be lighted, and having arm'd myself and all my Servants, and commanded them to follow me, went out of the Cabbin, join'd without any opposition all those from whom we hop'd for assistance, and safely conducted

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conducted them into the great Cabbin, where we put ourselves in a condition to fear nothing 'till the morning. Our Enemies in the mean time perceiving our motions, were in a much greater consternation than we. They were neither so well armed nor so numerous, and were greatly dejected by fear, which is always the inseperable companion of guilt. Imagining that they shou'd be attack'd and overpower'd in the morning, they took the only resolution which cou'd save them from punishment, and put it in execution immediately: And this was to throw the Long-boat overboard, and row to the nearest shore. We perceived their design; and tho' we might easily have dispatched them while they were letting the boat into the Sea, or have kill'd them with our musquets after they

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they were in it, yet I thought it most adviseable to suffer them to escape.

It was impossible to conceal this incident from Theofa. The noise and tumult threw her into a great consternation ; or she made this affair a pretence perhaps for venting the passion which had prey'd upon her heart, ever since we sailed from Leghorn. Her languor ended in a fever, which was attended with very dangerous symptoms, and was not at all abated when we arrived at Marseilles. Whatever reasons I had to hasten to Paris, I did not care to expose her to the danger of travelling, nor to leave her to the care of Servants, in a City so remote from the Capital. My assiduity and zeal in attending her were the same as they had been during the whole voyage, and I was
every

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every moment more and more convinced that it was no longer love but the pleasure I had in seeing and hearing her, my esteem and veneration of her character, and the benefits I had confer'd upon her, which render'd her dear and linked my affections to her as if she had been really my daughter. I dropp'd no more passionate expressions, nor the least complaint of the tortures which I saw her suffer for my Rival.

She recover'd gradually, after she had been several times given over by the Physicians; but her charms were a little impair'd by so long a disorder. Tho' the regularity and delicacy of her features were the same, yet she had lost some of the life of her complexion, and the piercing vivacity and lustre of her eyes. She was still however one of the most amiable
women

women in the world. Several persons of distinction, with whom I had contracted an acquaintance during her illness, often visited me merely for the sake of seeing her. Mr. de S. . . . , a young Gentleman who was born to a large estate, did not dissemble his fondness for her. He talk'd of it at first in a jesting manner, but was soon seriously in love, and sought for an opportunity to acquaint her with his passion. She was as insensible to him as she had been to me, as if the Count only was so happy as to know the way to her heart. She even intreated me to deliver her from the importunities of her new Lover, and I promised to do her this piece of service, without making any attempt in favour of myself. And indeed my passion was so
entirely

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entirely extinguished, that I now felt no desires but those of a friend.

What I declared to Mr. de S concerning her sentiments was so far from having the effect upon him which she expected, that he thought himself the more authorised to importune her by continual testimonies of his passion. He had been restrain'd by an apprehension of my being his Rival. But when he was assured that I confined myself within the bounds of friendship, and opposed his inclinations only in compliance with Theofa's desire, he told me that his passion was too lively and vigorous to be extinguished by her indifference, and that he shou'd at least preserve a Lover's hopes of gaining by assiduity and perseverance what he cou'd not obtain by his own merit or the inclination

nation of his Mistress. I told him that all his efforts wou'd be to no purpose, but he was not discouraged at this declaration; especially when I assured him upon my honour that I had never been able to obtain any favour from her which was in the least repugnant to modesty. As soon as she was well enough to have any relish of pleasure, he endeavour'd to dissipate her melancholy by entertainments, balls, and concerts. She was present at these amusements rather out of complaisance than inclination, especially when she found me not unwilling to be a sharer in them. Mr. de S. . . . was only the son of a Merchant; and if a sense of Theofa's merit inspired him with a passion for her, I saw nothing improper in the desire which I supposed he had to marry her. As the proofs
of

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of her being Condoidi's daughter amounted almost to a certainty, I shou'd have made no difficulty of attesting it, notwithstanding his obstinacy in refusing to own her. Mr. de S however, tho' he sometimes talk'd with me about his passion, never mention'd the word marriage. In vain did I endeavour to lead him to do it by some reflections, which shou'd at least have informed him that I shou'd not approve of his passion on any other terms. As I did not find him at all inclined to enter upon this subject, I resolved to tell him very plainly what were my views in favouring his addresses. Thus did I, by a very strange alteration in my conduct, endeavour to insure Theofa's conquests, and to part with her for ever by marrying her to another. Her interest was the
first

first motive of my acting in this manner; and I consider'd also that my taking her to Paris wou'd be apt to raise suspicions to my prejudice: For tho' I was not yet of an age in which love becomes indecent and preposterous, yet had I views of fortune which were very inconsistent with an engagement of this nature.

I explain'd myself with great freedom to Mr. de S, and he answer'd me with equal frankness. I love Theofa, said he, and am very desirous to make her my wife; but I have a thousand reasons to fear that this match wou'd not be agreeable to my father and other relations, whom I wou'd not willingly run the risk of disobliging. I am however of age, and shou'd be glad to marry her privately on any conditions you please. I cou'd by no means approve of this proposal:

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proposal : For though it secur'd the main point which I aim'd at, yet it was beneath my character to promote a clandestine marriage. And then, as it wou'd probably one time or other occasion a breach between Mr. S. . . . and his relations, Theofa cou'd expect no great happiness from it. I show'd therefore some resentment at his making this proposition, and assured him that she would never agree to it.

As I did not yet know Theofa's inclinations, I was willing to consult them, and to tell her what advantages were offer'd her by love. I was not at all surpris'd at her rejecting the hand and heart of Mr. de S. . . . ; but when I urg'd all the arguments which she herself had made use of in favour of a settlement which would prevent reproaches and efface
even

even her own ideas of her past life, and she told me that she was averse from marriage ; I cou'd not help upbraiding her with having imposed upon me, when she protested, with so much seeming sincerity, that this was the only thing which inclined her to listen to the Count's addresses. She was greatly perplex'd by this objection ; but endeavouring to get clear of it by an air of innocence and candour which had always succeeded with me, she conjured me not to misconstrue her sentiments, or rather not to pass too severe a censure on her weakness and folly. And reminding me of my promises, she call'd Heaven to witness, notwithstanding any irregularities which I might have observed in her conduct, that all the happiness which she hoped for or desired, was to continue to live with me.

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I thank'd her for her good opinion of me, and gave her fresh assurances that I wou'd punctually perform all my engagements. As her health was daily more and more confirm'd, we soon set out from Marseilles. Mr. de S in vain endeavour'd to detain us by his intreaties, which he often urged with tears in his eyes. He received from Theofa's own mouth the sentence which condemn'd him to stifle his passion. Some affairs however of his father furnished him with a pretence to accompany us as far as Lyons. And when he was constrain'd to take his leave, he told me in a whisper, that he design'd soon to come to Paris, where he shou'd be more at liberty to dispose of himself as he pleased. I was always persuaded that he had privately endeavour'd to obtain the consent of his family,

family, and that his father's refusal was the only reason of his proposing a clandestine marriage.

A continual hurry of business which I was in for a long while, did not now permit me to observe all Theofa's conduct so carefully as I had hitherto done. I lodged her in my own house, treated her with the same respect which I had formerly done, and granted her all the privileges which she had enjoy'd at Oru. Various were the opinions which my friends form'd, when they saw me arrive at Paris with this beautiful Greek. Some thought me not sincere in my account of the bright parts of her Story; and as I always took care to conceal the dark ones, they look'd on my eulogiums on her principles and conduct, as the exaggerations of a Lover. Others when they were bet-

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ter acquainted with her and found that she really possess'd all the merit which I ascribed to her, concluded that her perfections were an argument of my love, and that I cou'd have no other motive to bring so young and beautiful a person from Turkey. Thus all agreed, as I had foreseen, to think me more familiar with her than I really was; and the multiplicity and distraction of my affairs, which obliged me sometimes to pass two or three days without seeing her, cou'd not induce them to alter their opinion. The conclusions of the Public were much more various and fantastical. It was at first said that she was a Slave whom I had purchased in Turkey, that I was in love with her, and had spared no cost nor pains in her education. This conjecture was not intirely without foundation.

But

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But it was added, and I myself was informed in the Tuilleries by several persons who did not know me, that the Grand Seignior falling in love with my Slave on the miracles which were told him of her beauty, sent and demanded her of me, and that this was the grounds of all my disputes at Constantinople. And tho' Theofa still appear'd very amiable, yet as the lustre of her charms was somewhat eclipsed by her late illness, she did not fully answer the idea of a woman who had raised so much admiration. It was pretended therefore that I had diminish'd her beauty by a liquid which I had prepared on purpose, in order to avoid the tortures of jealousy. Others affirm'd that I stole her out of a Seraglio, and that this rash action was the cause of my being recall'd.

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Fables of this kind gave me no uneasiness, and I was always the first to laugh at them. All who visited me soon conceived a very advantageous opinion of Theofa, and she was not long without a croud of Admirers. As it would I thought be hard for her to resist the constant importunities of a gay nobility, I gave her some necessary precautions with regard to her behaviour. The Count de M was a proof of her not being insensible to a graceful manner and person. She was constantly in danger at Paris; and if I was no longer prompted by love to prevent her engaging in an amour, yet my reputation obliged me not to suffer any irregular correspondence in my house. She heard my counsels with her usual thankfulness and pleasure. Her taste for reading continued, and she

she discover'd even a new greediness of knowledge. She did perhaps out of vanity what I had hitherto attributed only to a desire of adorning her heart and mind. But whether I did not observe her narrowly enough to see thro' her conduct, or whether she had art enough to disguise it, I perceived nothing in her behaviour which merited censure 'till the arrival of Mr. de S. . . . , who inspired me with suspicions which I shou'd not have easily credited.

After he had past several weeks at Paris, and been frequently at my house, where I treated him with great civility, he one day took me aside and complain'd bitterly of Theofa. I told you the design of my journey, said he, at Lyons, but the case is since very much alter'd. I flatter'd myself that the coldness of

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my Mistress was the only difficulty which I had to surmount ; but I find that she has several profess'd Admirers, and have a thousand reasons to think that she does not behold them all with equal indifference. I am particularly driven to despair by the regard which she shows for Mr de R and the young Count of . . . , who seem the most zealous in their endeavours to please her. She does not indeed receive their visits at your house ; but this very exception gives me the more uneasiness, because I am persuaded that she makes this difference between them and innumerable others, only because she is prepossess'd in their favour. And yet how can I believe that she loves two at a time ? This is a mystery which I still want to clear up. Having watched her to Church, the Play-houses, and

and all places of public resort, I have constantly found her attended by these two troublesome Rivals; and the satisfaction which she takes in their company, sufficiently betrays her inclinations. He added nothing to make me carry my suspicions farther, and the request which he joined to his complaints was an argument to induce me to disregard them. He conjured me to let him know plainly what he had to hope for, and not to suffer so honourable a passion as his to be rejected with marks of disdain.

I promised him not only to espouse his cause with the greatest zeal, but to dive also into the bottom of an intrigue of which I never had the least suspicion before. I had appointed a widow Gentlewoman to be Theofa's companion, whose age seem'd to be

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a sufficient security against the follies of youth ; and had my confidence in the prudence of the young Greek been less than it was, yet shou'd I have thought myself very safe in the instructions and example of so discreet a Governess. They were never asunder, and I was pleased to find that they entertain'd a friendship for each other. I told her some of the accusations which were alledged against her ; for as Mr de S had own'd that he had never seen Theofa alone, one cou'd not be innocent and the other guilty. The Governess heard my reproaches with so little concern that I immediately attributed the uneasiness of Mr de S to his jealousy. She named the author of my suspicions. He is dissatisfied, said she, with the return which Theofa makes to his passion, and is continually

ally teizing her with his visits and letters. We cou'd not help laughing at so troublesome a fondness, and his resentment no doubt has made him complain to you. As to the crimes of which he accuses us, you know them already, added she; for it was in pursuance of your orders that I have endeavour'd to amuse Theofa. Our diversions were only the usual ones of people of fashion; and if the two Rivals who have so much alarmed Mr de S , were sometimes admitted to walk with us or to any other innocent freedoms of the like kind, it was not by way of distinction, or to give them any opportunities of which they might make an ill use.

This answer made me perfectly easy, and the only consolation which I offer'd Mr. de S was to exhort him to merit Theofa's affection,

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for whose innocence and prudence I cou'd venture to pass my word. His suspicions, however, were not intirely groundless. My sage Governess, though she was not capable of encouraging or winking at a criminal correspondence, was so much blinded by her vanity as to become the jest and pastime of our two Gallants, one of whom had undertaken, in order to serve his friend, to pretend to be in love with a woman who was at least sixty years old. Her eyes being only open to the courtship which was paid to herself, she took no notice of what past with regard to her Companion; and her credulity was so great as to make her think Theofa exceedingly happy in coming in for a share of the gallantries, of which she look'd upon her own charms as the only object. This
Farce

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Farce was so preposterous that the testimony of Mr. de S , who at last discovered it, nor any other evidence but that of my own eyes wou'd ever have induced me to believe it.

One day, when my affairs and disorders luckily happen'd to give me some respite, Mr. de S conjured me to go along with him, in order to be a witness of a scene which wou'd make me give more credit to his complaints. He had by his diligence discover'd that Theofa and the old Lady were engaged to take a walk, and afterwards to accept of a collation in the Gardens of St. Clou. He had learnt even the place and all the circumstances of their entertainment; and what provoked him so far as to make him intersperse his relation with threats, he knew that the two Ladies were to have no company
but

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but Mr. and the young Count. Whatever colour the Widow might give to this excursion, I cou'd not help condemning and thinking it very indiscreet. I suffer'd myself therefore to be conducted to Saint Clou, fully resolved to be a spectator of all that passed, and to load our two Ladies with reproaches, from which the innocence of their intentions ought not to exempt them. They and their Gallants were there before us, and we saw them take some turns in an open place, where we did not think it necessary to follow them. Mr. de S.... took care to chuse a situation where we might see and hear every thing during their collation. Knowing that the preparations for it were making in a grass-plot at the further end of the Garden, we went thither by several bye ways, and took our station
very

very commodiously behind an espalier at a few yards distance.

They came thither in a little while after us, and where guilty of nothing unseemly as they came along; but were very full of toying and foolery as soon as they had taken their seats on the grass. The Widow open'd the Farce, and I presently perceived that the flattery and caresses of our two Gallants were scenes concerted beforehand. After they had made her a thousand fulsome compliments on her beauty and compared her to the Nymphs and Graces, they deck'd her with herbs and flowers, and were astonished at the lustre which her charms received from such preposterous ornaments. She was highly delighted with this drollery, and taking an indirect method to show her satisfaction, commended the wit and
humour

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humour of all they said and did. What reflections did I not make on the folly of a woman who forgets her age and deformity! I thought my old Governess so justly punished, that I shou'd have been diverted with the sight, had there been no body there for whom I was more nearly concerned. But I observed that the Count was very serious between the interludes of this Farce, and that he took all opportunities of addressing words to Theofa which did not reach us. Mr. de S.... burnt with rage and indignation. His agitations were so violent that I often apprehended that the noise of them wou'd betray us. He wou'd several times have rush'd out and interrupted a Comedy which went to his very heart, had I not detain'd him by force; and I had the greatest difficulty in the world

world to do it, when he saw the Count bow down his head even to the ground, in order to steal a kiss from one of Theofa's hands, which she seem'd in no great hurry to draw from his lips.

Their collation was very elegant, and lasted a long time; and their mirth was enliven'd with merry tales and sallies of wit and pleasantry. Tho' they might not drink to excess, yet they tasted a variety of wines, and did not want much courting to take their glasses in their turn. In short, tho' nothing passed which was absolutely criminal and immodest, yet I saw enough to make me very uneasy, and resolved speedily to show my resentment of their conduct. I determin'd however to take no notice of the affair 'till we came to Paris, and supposing that the Ladies were ready to
go

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go back to their coach, was in some perplexity how to return to ours without being seen; when Mr. de taking the Widow by the hand, lead her into a close walk, which was by no means the way to the gate at which they must necessarily go out. Imagining that Theofa and the Count were going to follow their companions, I designed only to observe them at a distance, but seeing them take a quite different route, the evil appeared to be pressing, and I wanted no farther proofs of her levity, nor any of Mr. de S. . . . 's instigations to fly to her relief. Having made him promise to keep his temper, I went in pursuit of the Lovers; and when I had overtaken them, I pretended that I came to Saint Clou for the sake of walking in the Gardens, and that I had just been informed of
their

their collation, and where I might expect to find them. They were so confounded, notwithstanding the easy and chearful air which I affected to assume, that they were a long while silent, before they recover'd themselves enough to offer us the fragments of their entertainment.

I was little inclined to accept of them; and thinking of nothing but how to break off so dangerous an intrigue, I told the Ladies that I had some affairs to communicate to them which obliged me to desire a place in their coach. These Gentlemen, added I, did not to be sure come hither without their equipage, or if they did, mine is at their service. Mr. de had order'd his to follow him. We went away directly, and the two Lovers had the mortification to see their places supplied by me and Mr. de S....

As

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As it wou'd have been too severe to have reprimanded the Ladies for their indiscretion before a Stranger, I postponed my lectures 'till our arrival at Paris. But looking upon the Widow as she sat over-against me, I cou'd not help smiling at the figure she had made, nor forbear making her some compliments upon her charms, in the same strain as those which she had heard in the Gardens. I perceived that her head was so much turn'd that she really thought me sincere. A malicious smile appear'd in the face of Theofa, but I shou'd I thought quickly spoil her mirth. She took care, however, in the mean time to deprive Mr. de S. . . . of all his hopes at once. Whether she suspected the design which brought us to Saint Clou, and that he was the author of it; or whether she was really

really averse from his passion, which was indeed sometimes troublesome and impertinent; she took the opportunity as he handed her out of the coach, to desire him never to trouble her more with visits which had always been disagreeable to her, and which she was fully determined never to admit of again: Assuring him at the same time that he was to look upon this as a final answer, and a last farewell. Mr. de S was in so great a consternation at what she said, that he had not resolution enough to follow or make her any reply. He address'd his complaints to me; and I was the more affected by them, as this conduct of Theofa was so directly opposite to the natural sweetness of her temper, that I cou'd not suppose that she wou'd have been guilty of it, had she not been hurried on by
some

260 *The Fair Greek.*

some violent passion in favour of another. I was more charmed with the sincerity of Mr. de S than with his person or estate ; and assuring him of my friendship, endeavour'd to comfort him by all the arguments which are the usual resource of unsuccessful Lovers. Visit me, said I, as often as you please. Tho' I shall not offer any violence to Theofa's inclinations, yet I'll take care to convince her of her folly in slighting your passion ; and if she entertains any irregular desires, shall soon without doubt be able to extinguish and make her ashamed of them.

Having been for some time generally confined to my chamber by an ill state of health, I had seldom enjoy'd the pleasure of eating or conversing with my family. But the concern which carried me to Saint Clou,

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Clou, did not permit me to let the night pass without opening my heart to Theofa. As custom and familiarity had long since banish'd all troublesome ceremonies between us, I took the liberty of going into her chamber about the time that I was told that she designed to retire to it, and own'd as soon as I saw her that the occasion of my coming was very serious and extraordinary. I knew not whether she mistrusted the motive of my visit, but observed that her countenance changed. She heard me however with great attention. And indeed a desire of thoroughly comprehending what was said before she made any answer, was one of her good qualities.

I enter'd immediately upon the subject of my complaints. You know,

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know, said I, the great zeal which you have discover'd for living with me, and that you a thousand times told me that a love of virtue and retirement was the motive of it. Don't you find them here? Why then do you go to Saint Clou in quest of pleasures which are so repugnant to your principles, and what business can you, whose sentiments and morals are so directly opposite to theirs, possibly have with Mr. and the Count of ? My affection for you wou'd willingly impute any errors to your not being thoroughly acquainted with our customs, and to the folly of a guide who forgets them. But what can I say of this excursion, this great intimacy with two young men whose way of thinking is so very different from yours?

This

This disregard of common decency gives me an uneasiness which I can no longer dissemble.

I turn'd away my eyes, in order to give her time to think of an answer; but she did not make me wait long. I perceive, said she, the whole extent of your suspicions, and the weakness which I discover'd at Leghorn is a sufficient justification of them. And yet you do me a great injury, if you suppose that I ever swerved a moment from the paths of virtue, either at Saint Clou or at other places where you may have seen me. You have a thousand times told me, continued she, and I daily read the same things in the Books which you put into my hands, that we ought to bear with the weakness and follies of others, to be sociable with those with whom we live, and to look with indulgence on the failings

264 *The Fair Greek.*

failings and passions of our friends. I act according to your instructions, and to the maxims of the Authors which you direct me to read. Looking very earnestly upon me, I know you well, added she, and that I run no risk in trusting you with a secret. She whom you have given me for a Companion has some failings, but I have all the reasons in the world to wink at them. She is your Friend, and my Guide and Governess: Was it not my duty to please and obey her?

Less than this wou'd have been sufficient to have silenced my reproaches. I repented of having been so free of them, and thought I saw into the bottom of this mystery. The Count was in love with Theofa; Mr de pretended to be in love with the Widow, in order to serve his

his friend; and Theofa listen'd to the courtship of the Count out of complaisance to her Governess. What an heap of illusions! I felt all my respect and esteem for Theofa revive again, and imagined that I saw her virtues and perfections shine with all their former glory and brightness. My infirmities made me credulous, and I embraced her with great tenderness. You have just grounds, said I, to complain of me for giving you so blind a guide. I myself have been a witness of her unparalel'd extravagance and folly, which must necessarily have been a perpetual constraint and uneasiness to you. I only wanted to be satisfied of your dispositions, to do you all the justice you deserve. To morrow you shall be free from this troublesome Governess, and I'll

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endeavour to find you a more suitable Companion.

It was late. I was in my night gown, and Theofa in my eyes still possess'd the all conquering charms which had formerly made such deep impressions on my heart. Her great goodness and prudence in humouring and concealing the frailties of her Governess, 'disturbed some sleeping embers of a flame which I thought intirely extinguish'd, or supposed at least that a continued series of disorders, and the maturity of my judgment, would never suffer it to break out again. I was, however, in too weak a condition to feel my former turbulent desires; but my jealousy, which of all the foibles of love was that perhaps which least became me, raged again with the same fury as at

Con-

The Fair Greek. 267

Constantinople. As soon as I was in bed I began to wonder how it had been possible for me to wax cool and indifferent with regard to so charming an object, and to be sorry that I had made no better an use of all my opportunities of winning her affections. Have I brought her into France, said I, that some other bold Adventurer may reap the fruits which I may infallibly have obtain'd by a little more assiduity and zeal. In short, if my senses were not as mutinous now as formerly, they were as much so as my ill health would allow them to be.

In this condition, I was not very unreasonable with regard to the favours which I desired of Theofa. To be frequently in my chamber, to which my pains and diseases sometimes con-

fin'd me in my bed for whole weeks together, was the only one which I propos'd to ask. The Lady whom I design'd for her new companion, had good nature and prudence enough to confine herself to the company of a Valetudinarian, without any apparent constraint or reluctance. The pleasure which the very idea of this scheme gave me, compos'd me to rest, and I slept very quietly all the remainder of the night. But the next morning Theofa desiring leave to wait on me in my chamber, made a proposition which disconcerted all my measures. She was so affected with my reproaches or so piqued about the adventure of Saint Clou, that she was quite out of humour with all her diversions and her present way of life, and desired my permission to retire to

to a Convent. As the pleasure of your company, said she in a very obliging manner, was the only motive of my desiring to live with you, and as I am continually deprived of that by your ill health, what business have I in the noise and hurry of such a City as Paris? I am perpetually wearied with the flatteries and importunities of men, and have no relish of any of their fashionable amusements. I design therefore to lead the same sort of life which I did at Oru, and of all the places which I have seen in this part of the world, I know none that is so suitable to my inclinations as a Cloister.

As an explication of my design was the best answer which I cou'd make to this request, I told her that she shou'd find in my house all the

270 *The Fair Greek.*

advantages which she hoped for in a Convent. I shall, said I, be greatly charm'd with having you perpetually near me, and to see you employ yourself in my apartment in reading, painting, chatting and diverting yourself with your new Companion. In short, as I offer'd her full liberty to pursue all the amusements which she seem'd to wish for, I did not at all doubt but that she wou'd readily embrace my proposal. But insisting upon her resolution of retiring to a Convent, she renew'd her intreaties to obtain my consent. The pleasure of my company, of which she had told me that she was deprived by my continual infirmities, was I thought the first thing which wou'd affect her, and nothing surpris'd me so much as to
observe

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observe that this was a motive which she seem'd to have intirely forgotten. I took care, however, to remind her of it; but she only made me some compliments and excuses, and then continued to speak of a Cloister as the only place which cou'd for the future have any charm for her. I was so much mortified and provoked by her indifference, that I told her with some warmth that I did not approve her scheme, and absolutely insisted, if she had not lost all regard for me, on her never mentioning it more. I at the same time order'd the person whom I designed for her Companion to be sent for, having informed her of the affair the night before by a letter. She was the widow of a Gentleman who belonged to the Law, and having but a small

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subsistence, was very glad to accept of an offer from which she hoped for several advantages. She lived in the neighbourhood, and came immediately. I gave her a more particular account of the services which I expected from her, and let her know she wou'd greatly oblige me by making herself agreeable to her Companion. Theofa submitted to my desires without repining, and they soon contracted a friendship for each other.

The enchanting conversation of my dear Greek was the only charm I used to sooth the anguish of my pains. I took nothing from any other hand. I spoke but to her, nor heeded ought but her answers. In the most cruel attacks of a malady to which I was condemn'd for the rest of my life, I
received

received some comfort from the least of her tender cares, and found my tortures sometimes interrupted by delightful intervals of pleasure. She seem'd concern'd at my situation, and never to be weary of attending me. But I obliged her however, tho' I often found it very difficult to prevail on her to leave me, to spend some hours every day at places of public amusement, or in walking with her Companion. She was never long absent, nor ever thought that she cou'd return too soon. Her former Governess, who was disgusted at being discharged from her Office, disturbed this agreeable calm, by raising suspicions in my mind which I have never been able to clear up. Whether they were well grounded or not, let the Reader

M 5 judge ;

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Judge ; for to him I now absolutely submit my own cause, and all the dark and doubtful parts of Theofa's character and conduct.

Her late Governess was very free and unreserved in her accusations. After bewailing the unhappy situation which hinder'd me from observing what passed in my house, she told me very plainly that the Count of visited Theofa continually, and that he had lately prevailed on her to return his passion, tho' he had never been able to accomplish it while she was under her care. And she added before she gave me time to recover from my surprise, that the two Lovers had continual interviews in Theofa's apartment, and that she evidently received her Gallant in her arms every night after she left me.

As

At the time of her doing me this ill office, Theofa was luckily absent. I shou'd not have been able to have concealed the violent shock it gave me, and affairs of this nature are not unravel'd and cleared up without the utmost secrecy and precaution. My first reflections, however, were favourable to Theofa. I recollected all her steps, since she had consented to live in my presence almost perpetually. Excepting the time which I obliged her to spend in exercise or diversions, she was hardly ever a quarter of an hour together out of my chamber. And did she grant so little a while to love? Or was her passion always capable of the same moderation? She never left me till it was very late in the night, and her looks and spirits in the morning were always
fresh

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fresh and lively. And were these any symptoms of having passed her hours of absence in the arms of a passionate Lover? And then was not her prudence, her modesty and chearfulness the same? In short, I knew the levity and imprudence of her Accuser, and did not doubt but that she was sufficiently mortified at the displeasure which I had show'd at her conduct, to endeavour to revenge herself upon me, Theofa, or the person whom I had substituted in her room.

As she continued to live in my family, and I was very desirous that she shou'd not communicate this affair to any body else; I told her that imputations of this kind shou'd not be look'd upon as true 'till they had been confirm'd by unquestionable proofs, and that they shou'd by all means

means be kept secret, as well for my honour as for that of the young Greek. If you divulge this affair therefore to any person whatever, I shall certainly become your most implacable enemy; and if you don't soon convince me of the truth of it by undeniable evidence, shall harbour a very mean opinion of you for the future. We parted very little satisfied with each other. She was displeased that her accusations were not intirely credited, and I observed an heat and rancour in them, which cou'd not proceed from a desire of obliging me.

The constraint in which these doubts obliged me to live with Theofa, made me think two days an age of pain and torture. The third night, about half an hour after Theofa had left

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left me to retire to rest, her Accuser came into my chamber and told me in a whisper, that I might now surprise her in the company of her Gallant. I made her several times repeat what I cou'd not easily credit, but she was so circumstantial in her relation that I cou'd not help believing it.

I was in bed, and being oppress'd with all my usual load of disorders, found some difficulty to rise. The precautions which I was obliged to use to conceal my suspicions from my Servants took up some time, and my reluctance and fears occasion'd some farther delay. I resolv'd, however, to go to Theofa's apartment. We had only one candle, and that Madam de carried herself. It went out before we came to the door, and some

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some time was spent in lighting it again. I fear, said my guide as soon as she returned, that the Count has taken this opportunity to escape. And yet the door, added she, cou'd not be open'd and shut again without some noise. I trembled and was in great confusion. We rapped at the door of her anti-chamber, and after we had waited a few moments it was open'd by Theofa's woman, who was greatly surpris'd to see me there at so late an hour.

Is she alone? Is she in bed? And several others of the like kind were the first questions which I asked with the utmost eagerness and impatience. Her Accuser would have rush'd rudely into her chamber, but I detain'd her. As this is the only door, said I, it is impossible for any body to escape with-

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without being seen ; and if Theofa is innocent, I shou'd never forgive your doing her so great an injury. Her Woman assured me that her Mistress had been some time in bed, and was already fast asleep ; but the noise which we made, was sufficient to wake her. We heard something move, which increased the impatience of Madam de , and I follow'd her to the door of Theofa's room. She had call'd her woman, and receiving no answer was got out of bed ; and being directed by her fears, open'd her door to see what was the matter in her anti-chamber.

She appeared in a very thin night gown, which it required no long time to slip on ; and I was not at all surpris'd to see a light in her chamber,

ber, because I knew that she usually had one. But then she was up, and I had been assured that she was asleep. Besides her confusion and fears were I thought too great to be attributed only to her surprise at seeing me there. In short, as I was prepossess'd by the imputations of her Accuser, the least disorders which I saw in her chamber were so many footsteps of her Gallant, and undoubted proofs of the irregularities with which she was reproached. She trembled, and asked me what brought me thither at so late an hour. Nothing, said I, in a more abrupt manner than I ever used to speak to her; and looking around me, continued to observe every thing which might serve to clear up my suspicions. Her chamber was so little incumber'd

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cumber'd that nothing cou'd be hid from my view. I searched her closet, and peep'd under her bed. And in short, having examined every place that look'd the least suspicious, I retired without saying another word, tho' Theofa during the surprise of this scene had asked me several questions concerning the occasion of it. If I was tortured with indignation and resentment when I came, a fear of having injured the beautiful Theofa afflicted me as much at my return. The Informer had remain'd all this while as a guard in the Anti-chamber. Come along, said I, in an angry tone ; your groundless suspicions have cover'd me with grief and shame. She seem'd to be in as great a consternation as I, and protested as she went along that the Count must

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must certainly have made his escape, since she was very positive that she saw him come up stairs and go into Theofa's apartment.

Having no reason to discredit the testimony of a woman whom I thought incapable of telling an untruth, or that of my own eyes which had discover'd nothing in Theofa's chamber, I was quite oppress'd with confusion and terror, and resolved to go immediately to bed, in order to recover myself from the cruel shock which these doubts and disappointments had given me. But the remembrance of the terrible disorder in which I left Theofa, and a thousand pleas which my heart made in her favour, induced me to send one of my servants to intreat her not to be uneasy. I reproached myself with
my

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my silence, supposing that she might draw unlucky conclusions from it : And if she was innocent, what impressions might they not make on her heart and mind ? My servant told me that she was all bath'd in tears, and that sighs, and complaints of the wretchedness of her condition were the only answer which she returned to the compliment I made her. I was so affected with her sorrows, that I shou'd immediately have went back with a view of relieving them, had I listen'd only to pity ; but the doubts which perplexed my mind, or rather the almost indubitable proofs which deprived me of all hopes of finding her innocent, detain'd me, whether I wou'd or not, and made me the victim all the light long of grief and despair.

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I resolved to visit her in the morning, as well to comfort her in her affliction as to draw from her a confession of the disorders of which she was accused. The knowledge which a long familiarity with her had given me of her temper, made me hope that I shou'd soon be able to find out the truth; and if I shou'd be obliged to withdraw my esteem, I designed at least to hide her errors and disgrace from the person who had accused her. I had the same view in being silent during the searches which I made in the evening. I did not care to be reproached with wilful blindness, and shou'd not have spared Theofa, had I been so unhappy as to have found her with the Count; but my fears having been always balanced by some remains of hope, I
resolved

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resolved to embrace all opportunities to induce her Governess to dismiss her suspicions; and nothing surprised me so much as to hear her insist on the evidence of her own eyes, when I was going to upbraid her with not having sufficient grounds for her accusations.

I was getting ready to go to Theofa, when I was told that she was coming into my apartment, and was pleased with her making the first advances. The care which she had taken to compose her countenance, did not hinder me from observing the traces of her tears. Her eyes were dejected, and she did not venture for some time to turn them upon me. How, Theofa! said I, has it been possible for you to forget your virtuous principles? Have you renounced

The Fair Greek. 287

ced your prudence and modesty, which have always endeared you to me more than your beauty? Heavens! Gallants all night! I was not so wretched as to surprise you with the Count of, but he was seen to go into your chamber, and this was not the first time of his being indulged in such favours. I observed her with great attention, that I might gain information from every look and the minutest circumstances of her behaviour. She wept, she sobb'd, her voice was drowned in tears; and perceiving nothing which might aid my inquiries, I was almost as much moved by my impatience as she was by her passions. Recovering her speech at last, seen to go into my chamber, cried she! Who saw him? Who dares bring so horrid

rid an accusation against me? It is Madam de without doubt, added she, naming her former Governess; but if her malice is to be credited, it is to no purpose for me to attempt to justify myself.

I was startled at this language because it was a plain proof that Theofa guess'd at the subject of my complaints, and that she knew that this woman had formed resolutions to her prejudice. Hear me, said I interrupting her, I own that it was Madam de who saw the Count. Have I any reason to mistrust her evidence? But if you have any arguments to take off its force, pray let me hear them. This request encouraged her to tell me, that Mr de had discontinued his addresses to this Lady as soon as she was removed
from

from being her Governess, and that he had sent a very uncivil answer to a Letter in which she told him that he might visit her as usual, notwithstanding some late alterations in which she was little concerned. He had informed her that the Comedy was now at an end; since the reasons which he had for playing in it, ceased as soon as the alteration which she mention'd took place. Being convinced by this declaration of the mortifying part which she had acted, and persuaded that Theofa was happier in her amour, she was spurred on by a thirst of revenge to take all methods to procure some proofs against her. I have not been ignorant, said Theofa, of her artifice and snares, and know that I have been constantly watched wherever I went.

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And now, it seems, her malice supposes that I entertain the Count in the night. What offers has she not made to bribe my woman? Two days since she intercepted a Letter of the Count, threaten'd to inform you of it, and was vex'd to the heart that it was not in her power to pick out a single expression, from which she cou'd wring an ill meaning.

I did not doubt, added Theofa, when I saw you in my chamber, but that her accusations had brought you thither. And your presence, or rather my despair to find you so readily listen to my enemy, threw me into the consternation in which you beheld me. I come now to conjure you to deliver me from so cruel a persecution. She shed a torrent of tears, and falling on her knees by
my

my bed-side, earnestly besought me to grant what I had refused her before. A Convent, said she, with a voice almost stifled with tears, a Convent is the only place which remains for me, and the only one I desire.

I know not what answer I shou'd have made her; for tho' I was moved by her tears, and convinced by her defence, yet I cou'd not look upon her Accuser as the most wicked and detestable of women. While I was in these doubts, and cou'd get no information from any reflections which I made, my door open'd and in comes Madam de, that is to say, Theofa's enemy, mine perhaps, and the source of all our uneasiness. I had not time to ask myself whether I was to expect more

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light or obscurity from this visit. She cou'd not be ignorant that Theofa was in my apartment; and apprehending lest she shou'd regain all my former confidence, she undoubtedly came thither, to attack her or to defend herself. She accordingly began by treating her with very little ceremony. Her reproaches were so rude and severe, that Theofa, whether innocent or guilty, not being able to stem such a torrent of outrage, fainted away, and it was a long while before she cou'd be brought to herself again. The Governess renew'd her accusations with fresh warmth, and all the conviction I received from this shocking dispute was, that one was as obstinate and positive in affirming that she had seen the Count of go into

into the apartment where we had look'd for him; as the other was in maintaining, that this assertion was a most horrible calumny.

This shocking scene was more painful to me than to her. In short, being distracted with a thousand doubts which I cou'd not clear up, and not being able to think ill of the veracity of Madam de, nor to hate and despise Theofa, I commanded them both to be silent, and to bury in eternal oblivion an incident which they cou'd never recollect without the utmost horror. You must not leave me, said I to Theofa, but be so circumspect in your conduct for the future as to defy all suspicions. And you, Madam de, shall continue to live in my family; but when you bring any more accusa-

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accusations of which you have no better proofs, I shall not entertain you a moment longer. As she subsisted only on my generosity, I had a right to threaten her in this manner.

The satisfaction which I received from Theofa after this strange affair, was only that of her company. The violence of my maladies, and perhaps the impressions of so shocking a scene, had insensibly cured me of all my symptoms of love. If she had any other amours, no account of them ever reached the place to which my infirmities quickly made me retreat, and the Public must expect an History of them only from her Gallants. My family, and all my friends who visited me in my retirement, took so much care to conceal

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ceal her death from me, that I did not even so much as hear of it 'till several months after it happen'd. It was immediately after this fatal news, that I resolv'd to commit to writing every thing which was common to my History and that of this amiable Stranger, and to leave the Public to judge whether I have made an ill choice of the object of my love and esteem.

End of the Second and Last Volume.



The Thin Creek

and her dear friends from me, that I did not
ever to touch as heart of it till several
months after it happened. It was
immediately after this last news
that I resolved to continue to write
every thing which was common to
my history and that of this amiable
Stranger, and to leave the Public
to judge whether I have made an
ill choice of the object of my love
and concern.

From the Grand old Tree Whence

